

U.S.: No military action in Panama

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is concerned about the government crisis in Panama but does not plan to intervene militarily, the White House said Friday. "We reiterate our unqualified support for civilian rule and this is a matter we hope can be resolved peacefully by the Panamanian people," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. "We have no plans for military involvement," he said. The crisis developed after President Eric Arturo Delvalle tried to dismiss military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega but was sacked by the country's legislature. (see page 8). Fitzwater said the United States had received assurances from Panamanian authorities that there was no threat to American residents. Fitzwater said the United States knew in advance of Delvalle's plans to fire Noriega as leader of the Panama Defence Forces, but denied urging him to take the action. Delvalle said Friday he was still president and called on the United States to help him stay in office. But Delvalle told CBS in an interview that he did not want U.S. military intervention in his country.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab publication published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Efforts under way to free UNRWA officials

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A senior United Nations official said Friday two Scandinavians who were kidnapped in Lebanon apparently were caught in an "internal conflict" which had nothing to do with their jobs as relief workers for Palestinian refugees. Marrack Goulding, the U.N. under-secretary-general for political affairs, said secret contacts were under way with "people who might have influence" on the abductors to win the release of the captives. He refused to identify the kidnappers and replied "no comment" when asked if they were Palestinian or Lebanese. Jan Skene, 44, of Sweden, and William Jorgensen, 58, of Norway, were seized Feb. 5 near the Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese port of Sidon. They were employed by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which supplies medical help, schooling and food to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied territories. "I'm not sure it (the abduction) was directed against either UNRWA or the individuals. It may be the very unfair involvement of UNRWA staff in some internal conflict," said Goulding. When asked to elaborate, he said he had said more than he intended.

Volume 13 Number 3716

AMMAN SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1988, RAJAB 9, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King to meet Thatcher this week

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, now on a private visit to Britain, will hold talks this week with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the recent developments in the Middle East region and efforts made to convene an international peace conference. King Hussein arrived in London Thursday on a several-day private visit to the United Kingdom.

N. Yemen prepares for elections

SANAA (AP) — Preachers called on worshippers attending mosques in North Yemen Friday to register as voters as the country prepared for its first free parliamentary elections. Voting is not compulsory, but men and women over the age of 18 have been urged to register in recent weeks. Registration for the elections, scheduled for May after the holy month of Ramadan, ends Monday. Initial assessments indicate there will be more than two million registered voters.

Briton returns home from Iraqi jail

LONDON (R) — A British businessman released from an Iraqi prison arrived in Britain Friday to a tearful reunion with his family but refused to speak about the bribery charges which cost him 46 years in jail. John Smith, 46, held back his tears as he ran towards his wife and two daughters at Heathrow airport after arriving from Baghdad. He was released Thursday after a British request for clemency. He had been arrested in 1979, while talking with an Iraqi official in a park, and sentenced to life for bribing officials. It was recommended that he serve 20 years and the Iraqis accused of being with him were executed.

Court frees Heysel suspects on bail

BRUSSELS (AP) — A Brussels appeal court Friday released on bail 20 British soccer fans charged with manslaughter following the 1985 Heysel riots which killed 39 people. The court ruled that despite the charges against the 20, the setting of bail was sufficient to assure their appearance at the trial, said a court official. No date for the trial has been set. A lower court had set bail for the fans of Liverpool, ranging from 50,000 francs (\$1,430) to 200,000 francs (\$5,715), earlier this month. Including five suspects released on bail earlier, all 25 suspects extradited to Belgium and brought to Louvain prison 30 kilometres east of Brussels last September, have now been released to await trial.

Nasser's son has diplomatic passport

BELGRADE (R) — Khaled Abdul Nasser, the eldest son of Egypt's late president, is in Yugoslavia as a tourist with an Egyptian diplomatic passport, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. Egypt's state prosecutor last week demanded the death penalty for Nasser, 38, the son of Gamal Abdul Nasser, and 10 others, on charges of direct involvement in forming and financing a group called "Egypt's Revolution" which has killed two Israeli diplomats and wounded two U.S. diplomats since 1984. The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "Nasser did not seek asylum in Yugoslavia."

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Shultz meets Israeli leaders, faces split positions on his plan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz held talks with Israeli leaders Friday on new American ideas to settle the Palestinian problem but was confronted with a divided face by the coalition government of the Zionist state.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the rightist Likud bloc told Shultz Israel would not make concessions to Arab leaders under pressure from Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Shamir's spokesman said.

He also underlined sharp differences with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the Labour Party by reaffirming his opposition to an international conference with powers to address a Middle East settlement.

"Shamir repeated in a very clear way his opposition to the whole thing of an international peace conference," spokesman Yossi Azharir told reporters.

Peres, who met Shultz separately, told reporters he believed the secretary of state had brought workable proposals on his five-day swing through the Middle

East, which will also take him to Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

"I think there are many openings," said Peres, who has previously endorsed most elements of Shultz's proposals. "I think there is a great deal of work to be done."

Shultz said he agreed and added: "As always it is a great benefit to come and have a good long ball session about it all and hear your views that have been very helpful."

Shultz scheduled two more sessions with Shamir Sunday after he will have been to Jordan and Syria to assess Arab positions. Shamir also urged Shultz to move slowly on Palestinian "self-rule," informed sources said.

Shamir told Shultz at their two-hour meeting that there should be "a time of testing" for up to three years before negotiations are held

on a final settlement, said the sources, quoted by AP.

Shultz is promoting a U.S. plan that calls for negotiations on an overall settlement by December. But, the sources said, he applied "no pressure whatsoever" on Shamir.

In talks Friday, sources said Shamir reiterated his objections to an international peace conference that would assign an active role to the Soviet Union.

In this respect, he seems to have Shultz's support.

Shultz told reporters on his way here Wednesday from Washington that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze have voiced interest in such a conference in their meetings in Moscow. But Shultz said it was "not a way to go for substantive results."

A source close to Peres quoted Shultz as telling the foreign minister that the United States wanted to move beyond the framework of the Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accords of 1978 which also envisaged Palestinian "autonomy" in the occupied territories.

"The framework of Camp

(Continued on page 4)

Reagan to take Soviet tour after Moscow summit

MOSCOW (R) — President Ronald Reagan will visit the Soviet Union for a full-scale summit with Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the last week of May, according to a senior Soviet official.

The official expressed complete Soviet confidence that an epoch-making strategic arms reduction (START) treaty would be ready for signing by the two leaders at their fourth meeting in less than three years.

And he gave a strongly positive picture of the superpower relationship, arguing that the Soviet Union and the United States had moved away from hostility towards mutual trust and cooperation.

Speaking to foreign reporters Thursday on condition he not be identified or quoted directly, the official said the Reagan visit would last about a week and would not be a mirror image of the Kremlin leader's trip to Washington last December.

Reagan would travel outside Moscow — as did then-President Richard Nixon on two visits to the Soviet Union in 1972 and 1974 — to any part of the country he wished, according to the official.

He said Gorbachev, whom Reagan had wanted to take across the United States and to his own ranch in California, had

too full a calendar to stay more than three days in Washington.

But the Kremlin leader said at the time he would like to see other parts of the country on a later U.S. visit — which would now almost certainly be as the guest of a new president after Reagan leaves office in January next year.

If the official's programme is confirmed, diplomats in Moscow said, it would be an ironic if triumphant near-fine to eight years in the White House for the man who termed the Soviet Union at the start of his presidency as an "evil empire."

The senior Soviet official, in an off-the-record briefing believed unprecedented in six decades of ultra-secreteness by Moscow on its real foreign policy thinking, said he felt the change had come because both sides were tired of conflict.

Implicitly accepting that the Kremlin itself bore some blame for past tension, he said he felt an impulse had come from ordinary people in the two countries who yearned for their leaders to end confrontation.

The official suggested the superpowers, long suspicious of each other's every move, were now moving fast towards a relationship of mutual trust.

Soviets withdraw missiles, page 8

First Balkan meeting produces agreement to boost cooperation

BELGRADE (R) — Balkan foreign ministers attending the region's first high-level meeting backed away from the idea of a regional summit Friday, but agreed to regular talks on boosting cooperation.

The ministers — from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and host Yugoslavia — promised in a closing statement to their three-day meeting to hold further talks on economic, security, humanitarian, culture and technological issues.

All six states in the region, their links dogged through history by wars and disputes over ethnic minorities and borders, took a share of the meetings over the next 18 months between ministers, ambassadors and experts.

But there was no reference in the statement to a proposal by Romania to stage a Balkan summit in Bucharest next December.

Diplomats described this as a major blow for Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, known to be fond of pageantry and ceremony.

The document said a proposal for a meeting of heads of government "was discussed and will be further explored when appropriate conditions exist."

Lack of agreement on a summit stemmed from the insistence by hardline communist Albania that a step-by-step approach be maintained in improving Balkan ties.

Albanian Foreign Minister Reiz Malile rejected high-level "parades" as giving false impressions that all disputes were settled.

The Romanian delegation had lobbied hard in the closing stages of the meeting to include the summit proposal.

Karolos Papoulias of Greece said the talks "exceeded all my expectations."



Palestinian protesters attack an Israeli army vehicle in Nablus

Four Palestinians killed, many wounded in escalated protests on eve of Shultz visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Four Palestinians were killed, including a 12-year-old boy, and Israeli soldiers wounded at least 11 when protests erupted after prayers Friday as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz held talks with Israeli leaders on Arab "self-rule" in the occupied territories.

One Palestinian was shot dead in the Gaza refugee camp of Jahaliya and another died, apparently from tear-gas inhalation, in the West Bank city of Hebron south of Jerusalem. A third Palestinian was shot near the West Bank's largest city of Nablus, hospital officials said.

Four Palestinians were wounded in Hebron and two in nearby Halhoul, the army said. Three Palestinians were wounded in Jenin, another near Nablus and an 11th in the Gaza Strip.

The fatalities brought to 67 the confirmed number of Palestinians killed by beatings and gunfire since the uprising began 11 weeks ago.

In Hebron, hundreds of demonstrators attacked an army unit with stones and petrol bombs

and the troops fired live ammunition.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) named the dead man as Fouad Ayub Sbarawi, 47, a schoolteacher. It said he died of suffocation from the effects of tear-gas.

In the Gaza Strip, soldiers shot and killed 12-year-old Iyad Al Ashgar during a clash at Jahalya's Al Qassam Mosque and wounded one woman, the army and hospital officials said. Twenty others were hospitalized with tear-gas and beating injuries, hospital officials said.

"Soldiers surrounded the mosque... (and) we all started shouting Allahu Akbar," one worshiper, Ahmad Attallah, told AP reporter Jeffery Ulbrich.

Attallah said soldiers broke into the mosque and detained about 30 people. The troops also fired tear-gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition and tried to prevent an ambulance from entering until a group of women cleared the way for the vehicle, Attallah said, adding that someone used the mosque loudspeakers to call

for help. In Touhas, 55-year-old Razez-quah Daraghmen bled to death after being shot in the right thigh, said doctors at Nablus' Al Itihad hospital.

Despite a massive army show of strength, witnesses quoted by news agencies said hundreds of Palestinians burned tyres, stoned troops and barricaded roads in the West Bank towns of Ramallah, Al Bireh, Jenin and Halhoul.

In Nablus, residents said a crowd marched from the Al Nasr Mosque in the old city chanting anti-American slogans after a preacher denounced Shultz's visit.

At mosques in the Haram Al Sharif complex in Jerusalem, worshippers raised Palestinian flags and chanted, "by spirit and blood we sacrifice our martyrs," after Friday prayers, while troop reinforcements stood guard.

Israeli forces put 1,500 police reinforcements into Arab areas of Jerusalem and imposed curfews in the Gaza Strip on one Palestinian refugee camp and part of another to contain expected protests during Shultz's visit.

U.N. officials said protests were reported in several other Gaza Strip refugee camps and the army clamped a curfew on the Nur Al Shams refugee camp outside Tulkarem after demonstrations.

The U.S. television network CBS presented to the Israeli army a video-cassette of soldiers deliberately smashing the bones of two arrested Palestinians, filmed in Nablus Thursday, and asked for an investigation.

The incident was filmed with a long-distance lens after soldiers ordered press photographers to leave, CBS correspondent Bob Simon said. The army promised to investigate.

In a leaflet distributed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, Palestinian organisers called for "a day of popular demonstrations" Friday to protest the Shultz visit.

On Thursday, a general strike nearly shut down the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shops and schools were closed, streets were deserted and few Palestinians left for their jobs.

Andreotti: Assad will press for international conference

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad will press U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to back a U.N. sponsored peace conference on the Middle East, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti said Friday.

"Today the idea of an international peace conference is supported by the European Community, the Soviet Union and the Amman Arab summit (last November)," Andreotti, who met Assad Thursday, said in an interview.

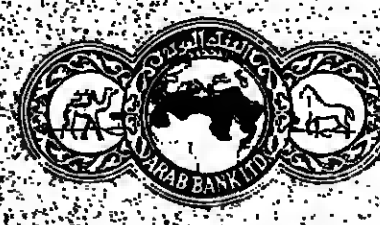
"President Assad will try to push Shultz to join all these parties in accepting the idea of holding a real international peace conference," the Italian foreign minister said.

Shultz is expected in Damascus Saturday on the second leg of a Middle East tour to rally support for U.S. proposals which include an "international meeting" to pave the way for direct Arab-Israeli talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met Shultz Friday and rejected the idea of an international conference.

Syria and other Arab countries have also rejected the U.S. proposals, insisting on a U.N.-sponsored conference.

THE LITTLE HANDS PRESENTS A MUSICAL SHOW WITH REMI BANDALY (See page 5)



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PLO: UNRWA kidnappers are not Palestinian

Amal fires security chief in apparent rift over Higgins

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Amal militia Friday dismissed its security chief in a move that underlined an apparent rift in its ranks over kidnapped U.S. Marine Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins.

Amal, which has been searching for Higgins since he was kidnapped Feb. 17, said in a terse statement that Mustafa Dirani, a former Lebanese army master sergeant, was "relieved of his responsibility as head of the central security system." It did not elaborate.

Dirani said in statement, that made no mention of his dismissal, that Higgins and some officials of the 5,800-man United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were paid by NATO to gather information about "terrorists."

"Regarding the American officer, I would like to stress that we have confirmed information that NATO is seeking to confront what it calls terrorism... by forming security systems specialising in Lebanon to gather information in preparation for acts of piracy in the future," he said.

"For this purpose, NATO uses some U.N. officers and some UNIFIL officers," he said in the hand-written statement.

Dirani's accusations echoed claims by the extremist kidnappers, the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth, that Higgins was an American spy.

U.S. officials have denied that and U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said Friday that Dirani's allegations were "baseless. The U.N. does not hire intelligence agents."

"They only information that UNIFIL is interested in is related to its limited mission in South Lebanon. All UNIFIL personnel report directly to UNIFIL headquarters and to nowhere else," Goksel said.

Dirani also criticised Amal for arresting members of the fundamentalist, Iranian-backed Hizbollah in South Lebanon in the dragnet for Higgins.

"We denounce the security arrangements that followed the abduction of the American officer, especially an attack on the Iranian embassy's information office," Dirani said.

Higgins, 43, heads a U.N. observer team in South Lebanon attached to UNIFIL, a nine-nation peacekeeping force deployed in the region since March 1978. Higgins, once an aide to former U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, was kidnapped near the southern port of Tyre.

Amal's military commander in Tyre, Daoud Daoud, has been leading a massive manhunt for Higgins. His militiamen have rounded up at least 42 Hizbollah members and searched at least six offices used by the Iranian embassy as cultural, information and religious centres.

Amal officials said the detainees include the three gunmen they say kidnapped Higgins and three others who monitored his movements in Tyre before the

abduction.

Daoud told reporters in Tyre Friday: "We believe Higgins is still in the south. We're strongly following up Higgins' case because we don't want such kidnappings to be repeated." He did not comment on Dirani's allegations.

An Amal official in Beirut said "hope persists" that Higgins would be released and "will not join the list of other foreign hostages in Lebanon."

The official, who refused to be identified, said Lebanon's senior Shi'ite cleric, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, was involved "in a quiet effort to release Higgins." He did not elaborate.

"Kidnappers of UNRWA officers are not Palestinian"

In another abduction case, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Lebanon said Thursday kidnappers of two Scandinavian U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employees are not Palestinians.

Salah Salah also deplored the agency's decision to limit its services to Palestinian refugees after the Feb. 5 abduction of Swede Jan Stening, 44, and William Jorgensen, 58, of Norway.

"I assure you that the two UNRWA staffers are not being held by any Palestinian side," Salah told a news conference at the Mar Elias refugee camp in west Beirut.

Salah heads a committee that runs the day-to-day affairs of an estimated 280,000 refugees scattered in 12 camps in Lebanon.



The funeral procession of a Palestinian boy killed by Israeli soldiers in the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza (Sygma photo)

Arab League assails Reagan's remarks on Palestinian uprising

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Arab League has criticised President Reagan for saying that outside forces were responsible for the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Clovis Makkoud, the league's ambassador to the United Nations, said Thursday Reagan's comments "caused us consternation and profound sadness," and argued badly for Secretary of State George Shultz's mission to the Middle East.

Reagan, commenting at a Wednesday night press conference on 10 weeks of Palestinian protests in the occupied territories, said:

"We have had intimations that there have been people suspected of being terrorists, outsiders coming in, not only with weapons, but stirring up and encouraging the trouble in those areas."

He refused to elaborate.

Makkoud, at a press conference Thursday, challenged Reagan's contention:

"Suspected? By whom? What is the evidence?" he said to reporters.

"President Reagan's comments are either based on false assessments or are guidance for Secretary Shultz's current mission," Makkoud said.

"In both instances, serious questions on the U.S. objectives are bound to be raised."

Shultz, at a refuelling stop in Shannon, Ireland, on his way to the Middle East, where he is to promote a new American initiative, appeared to distance himself somewhat from Reagan.

He told reporters he thought the anger of Palestinians in the territories was causing most of the violence but agreed with Reagan there had been some

involvement by outside forces.

At the State Department, spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the protests first began "out of frustration of the inhabitants in the territories themselves... as the secretary said, the underlying problem is the number of people in the occupied areas who don't have the right of governance."

"Subsequently outside groups have been trying to exploit and gain control of the situation," she added.

Like Reagan, however, she declined to support the charge with details.

Makkoud accused Reagan of assigning equal weight to Palestinians and Israelis by stating that "violence is both ways."

"That such a historic uprising is treated so gratuitously shows a measure of built-in bias that renders justifiable the scepticism concerning U.S. policy goals in the region," he said.

White House effort

Later Thursday, the White House sought to clarify some answers Reagan gave to reporters during the Wednesday news conference.

It played down both Reagan's claim that outsiders were responsible for the Palestinian uprising and his contention that an apparent contradiction with Shultz on Iran arms sales was a matter of interpretation.

The regular White House news briefing conducted by spokesman Marlin Fitzwater was dominated by reporters' efforts to get clarifications of Reagan's remarks.

Fitzwater avoided saying Reagan had misspoken on any subject, but he added detail, emphasis, elaboration and shading to several of the president's replies.

On some points, Fitzwater, however, said he could not elaborate, such as when asked to explain Reagan's remark that there is "a great division even among the (black) people who are being oppressed (in white-ruled South Africa)."

"It is a tribal policy more than it is a racial policy, and that is one of the most difficult parts here," Reagan said Wednesday night.

Asked to explain, Fitzwater said, "I don't remember that specific reference. I don't have any elaboration on that."

Fitzwater said the comments of Reagan and Shultz on the uprising "are totally consistent as far as we're concerned."

He added, "the president said the same thing (as Shultz)... that they were partly influenced by outside sources." Reagan did not use the word "partly."

When it was noted that the president did not mention "indigenous" origins of the problem, the spokesman replied: "No, he didn't use those words, but that's clear."

Fitzwater said he could not elaborate on the identity or give details on the outside forces.

Iran arms

Reagan also raised questions by saying Shultz and former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger had not objected to the secret sale of arms to Iran on the grounds that it was an arms-for-hostages deal.

"They did not object (to) the idea of — that we were trading arms for hostages," he said. "But their objection was that if and when this became known, as it would be, it would be made to appear that we were trading hostages for — or arms for hostages."

Security Council working on Iran arms embargo

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters has said that the five permanent members of the Security Council are working on a resolution to impose an arms embargo against Iran in its war with Iraq.

"The U.S. is urgently seeking passage of this resolution" intended to persuade Iran to comply with a seven-month-old council demand for an immediate ceasefire and troop withdrawal, Walters said.

"The five permanent members are now actively working" on an embargo, he said Thursday in testimony before members of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington. His statement was released by the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, meanwhile, conferred Thursday with Iraqi Ambassador Ismat Taha Kittani, after meeting the day before with Iranian acting Ambassador Mohammad Jafar Mahallati.

Perez de Cuellar held two rounds of talks with Iranian and Iraqi envoys in an effort to end the war.

Spokesman Francois Gruliani said at a briefing that the secretary-general's discussions were parallel to Security Council consultations on ending the war. He said the U.N. chief currently had no plans to invite envoys from the region for another round of high-level talks.

Walters told congressmen that Iraq has agreed to comply with the original Security Council Resolution 598 of July 20. "Iran,

despite deceptive signals to the contrary, has maintained its commitment to the path of war," he said.

The United States is president of the 15-member Security Council this month in a system of rotating presidency.

An arms embargo resolution, first proposed by Britain, would order all nations to halt the sale of arms, spare parts, ammunition, war planes, tanks and stop all military training of Iranians for two years. That resolution is expected to be modified significantly.

Walters also told congressmen that "half-measures," like the Soviet proposal for a U.N. naval force in the Gulf, were not workable.

"They would play into Iran's hands," he said, "by addressing only one aspect of the conflict and by allowing the land war to continue unabated."

Last Friday the permanent members distributed a draft of an arms embargo resolution to the other 10 council members for discussion. The five nations will continue to work on the resolution, but the Soviet Union has not accepted or rejected the specific contents of the measure.

The council is not expected to approve a final resolution calling for an embargo against Iran in the near future.

The resolution also calls for an impartial body to decide which side started the war. Iran has said that branding Iraq "the aggressor" is essential for peace in the region.

Major U.S. firms turning to British protection in Gulf

BAHRAIN (AP) — Major U.S. oil companies doing regular business with Saudi Arabia are turning to Britain for protection of their tankers against Iranian attacks, according to Gulf-based shipping executives and diplomatic sources.

The sources, all speaking on condition they not be named, say the move by such corporations as Chevron and Mobil is apparently prompted by loss of hope that the U.S. navy's escort operations would be expanded to cover U.S.-owned or -operated vessels that do not fly the American flag.

They said Chevron and Mobil recently registered a total of five supertankers in Bermuda under the red ensign, flag of the British merchant marine, and Exxon Corporation had brought its Bahamas-registered ESSO Atlantic out of four years' retirement to carry crude to the United States.

The 516,893-ton ship is one of the world's three or four largest. Exxon already has about a dozen supertankers flying the U.K. flag, and another five sailing under the French flag.

France, Britain, Italy and the Soviet Union also have naval escort contingents in the Gulf.

Two Chevron-owned vessels, the 413,158-ton Chevron South America and the 264,000-ton Chevron Edinburgh, were shifted from Liberia to Bermudan registry in December. The vessels routinely operate between Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura terminal and Chevron's fleet is estimated at 48, mainly under Liberian registry.

Mobil, with a 28-vessel fleet, has transferred three Liberian-flagged tankers to Bermudan. They are the 277,000-ton Mobil Falcon, the 280,428-ton Mobil Petrol and the 138,496-ton Mobil Acme, which also routinely carry Saudi crude to the United States.

The U.S. navy's Middle East force mainly protects 11 state-owned Kuwaiti tankers re-registered last year in the United States. Only one of the Kuwaiti ships is a crude oil tanker, and none of them sail regularly to the United States, which derives only six per cent of its oil imports directly from Gulf sources.

Although the navy may escort any U.S.-flag vessel, few enter the waterway, where nearly 500 ships have been hit or damaged in the "tanker war."

Lawyers deny Meese knew of plan to use Pentagon money to protect Iraqi pipeline

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for Attorney General Edwin Meese have denied that Meese knew of a plan to use U.S. Defence Department money to protect a \$1 billion Iraqi pipeline project from attacks by Israel.

The plan was being promoted by Meese's longtime friend, Robert Wallach, Wallach's attorney, George Walker, confirmed the contents of two messages in December 1985 sent by Wallach to Swiss oilman Bruce Rappaport, a partner in the proposed Iraqi project.

The Washington Post, which Thursday disclosed the existence of the proposal to use Pentagon money, said the December 1985 messages plus another Wallach-to-Rappaport telex in Feb. 3, 1986 show that Meese supported the plan and that the late William Casey, then CIA director, endorsed it.

But Meese's lawyers denied Thursday that Meese was even aware of the Pentagon money

plan, and Wallach's lawyer said that as far as he knows, Meese was never told about the Pentagon aspect of the pipeline project.

"The attorney general was not involved in any plans to utilise Defence Department funds for the project, gave no assurances about any such plan, and arranged no meeting for that purpose," said the statement by Nathan Lewin, one of Meese's lawyers.

In an interview, Lewin added: "The attorney general has no recollection of anything being said to him about any such plan. He wasn't aware of it."

Earlier in the day at the Justice Department, Meese declined comment, telling a reporter: "I think my lawyers have said it all."

Peres under pressure

Meanwhile Israeli newspapers and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party demanded Thursday that Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres explain his role in the affair.

Documents published in Washington this week suggested Israel was offered money in 1985 in exchange for a promise not to attack the pipeline. One memorandum indicated some of the proceeds may have been intended for Peres's Labour Party.

Likud parliamentarians, sensing possible embarrassment to their political rivals in an election year, demanded in a statement that Peres give a full account of dealings which they said made Israel look like a "banana republic."

"The allegations... will not go away by Mr. Peres and his entourage blandly brushing them off as complete nonsense," wrote the Jerusalem Post.

"Labour's chairman must rebut the allegations of what amounts to political corruption by forthrightly telling it all as it was. And by doing so promptly and of his own volition," the paper said.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	24:00	Circus Down
7:30-11:15		
PROGRAMME ONE		
15:30	Koran	
15:35	Programme Review	
15:40	Children's programme	
16:20	The Boney	
16:30	Eureka	
16:45	How Things Work	
17:45	Trips	
17:50	Arabic series	
19:05	Message from Iraq	
19:15	Family programme	
19:45	Programme review	
20:00	News in Arabic	
20:40	Arabic series	
21:30	Programme on Jordan	
22:00	Varieties	
23:00	News Summary in Arabic	
23:15	Circus Down	
PROGRAMME TWO		
17:45	La gerant of the Falcon	
19:00	News in French	
19:15	French varieties: Un DB de plus	
19:30	News in Hebrew	
19:45	Science World	
20:00	News in Arabic	
20:30	Martini Children (comedy)	
21:00	Magazine Zero One	
21:10	Saturday Variety Show	
22:00	News in English	
22:30	Feature film: "Manhattan Man"	
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM		
partly on 99.0 KHz. SW		
7:30-11:15		
07:00	Morning Show	
07:30	Newsdesk	
08:00	Morning Show	
10:00	News Summary	
10:05	Morning Show Cont.	
11:00	Hiwille: The Story of Motown	
12:00	News Summary	
12:05	Pop Session	
13:00	News Summary	
13:05	Pop Session	
14:30	News Bulletin	
14:35	Concert Hour	
16:00	News Summary	
16:05	Instrumental Old favourites	
17:00	Special Feature	
17:30	Good Old Days	
18:00	News Summary	
18:05	Top Twenty	
19:00	Newsdesk/Music	
19:30	Date with a Star	
20:00	Young Sound	
20:30	Discovering Music	
21:00	Play of the Week	
22:00	Country Music	
23:00	Classical Music	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	SERVICE CLUBS
EXHIBITIONS	
★ An art exhibition by Mohammed Kaswani at the Housing Bank Gallery.	
★ A photo exhibition about architecture in Spain at the Spanish Cultural Centre (Feb. 22 to March 3).	
★ An art exhibition by Mohammed Al Jalous at the Alia Art Gallery (until Feb. 27).	
★ An exhibition of prints by Rima Farah at the Gallery of the Jordan International Hotel (until Feb. 29).	
★ An exhibition to commemorate German composers Heinrich Schütz and Johann Bach at Yarmouk University (until March 3).	
★ From Gothenberg to Electronics. 10 a.m., Goethe Institute (runs through March 8).	
JAPANESE FILM SHOW	
★ Tora San's Song of Love (subtitled in Arabic) at Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.	
FILM	
★ "Effi Briest" at 4:00 p.m. at Goethe Institute.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267	
American Centre - Tel. 644371	
American Cultural Library - Tel. 644378	
British Council - Tel. 6361470	
French Cultural Centre - Tel. 637009	
Goethe Institute - Tel. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre - Tel. 644203	
Spanish Cultural Centre - Tel. 634049	
Turkish Cultural Centre - Tel. 639777	
Haya Arts Centre - Tel. 663195	
Hussein Youth City - Tel. 667816	
Y.W.C.A. - Tel. 641793	
Y.W.M.C.A. - Tel. 642251	
Amman Municipal Library - Tel. 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library - Tel. 943553	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

15:45	Kuwait (LN)
16:00	Riyadh (SV)
17:20	Cairo (MS)
18:35	Damascus (AZ)

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:30	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:30	Cairo (RJ)
09:30	Kuwait (RJ)
09:30	Damascus (RJ)
09:30	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:30	Dhahran (RJ)
09:55	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	Amman (RJ)
10:00	Cairo (RJ)
17:00	New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:00	Athens (RJ)
18:00	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:00	Tripoli (RJ)
24:00	Aqaba (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:45	Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
13:40	Aqaba (RJ)
14:45	Kuwait (RJ)
14:45	Tripoli (LN)
15:00	Riyadh (SV)
16:35	Cairo (MS)
17:45	Rome (AZ)
23:25	Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:15	Aqaba (RJ)
07:45	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Tripoli (LN)
11:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30	Athens (RJ)
11:30	Paris (RJ)
11:45	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
11:55	Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:00	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15	Cairo (RJ)
12:30	Kuwait (RJ)
19:35	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
19:50	Jeddah (RJ)
20:00	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

04:45	Istanbul, Belgrade (JU)
06:30	Frankfurt (LN)
06:30	Cairo, London (BA)
06:30	Beirut (MS)

PRAYER TIMES

04:44	Fajr
06:02	(Sunrise) Doha
11:48	Dhuhr
15:43	Asr
17:25	Maghrib
18:53	Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered showers in the hilly areas. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	67 / 16
Aqaba	11 / 22
Deeset	11 / 24
Jordan Valley	12 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Thursday rates

Local sell/buy rates in Jds

Belgian franc	95 / 96.8
Dutch guilder	177 / 180.2
French franc	58.7 / 59
Italian lira	271 / 27.5
Japanese yen (for 100)	261.2 / 267.5
Swedish crown	50 / 57
Swiss franc	241.9 / 246.7
U.K. sterling pound	593.5 / 606.2
U.S. dollar	327.3 / 342.7

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

PHONE NO.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	712253, 273311
Civil Defence Quesneish	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Amman downtown fire brigade	198, 199
Amman ambulance	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	778336
Civil Defence reserve	661111
Fire headquarters	620953
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896901
Electric Power Co.	636314, 636881
Municipal water complaints	771258
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08)3330	

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Rami Mazzaawi	894788
Dr. Walid Yacoub	784011
Dr. Uthman Mustafa	774024
Dr. Zaid Zaghoul	636192
First aid	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637035
Nigroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salim pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

TAXIS:	
Rainbow taxi	637340
Nahla taxi	663200
Karnak taxi	669761
Osher taxi	650406
Band taxi	672660
Qassem taxi	671600
Laith taxi	795338
Qudsiyah taxi	637349

IRBID:	
Dr. Nabil Abul Ula	(—)
Shara'a pharmacy	273825

ZARQA:	
Dr. Samir Kiyaya	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

GENERAL

Jordan Television	77311/119
Radio Jordan	77411/129
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	669412
Police complaints	661136
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

HOSPITALS

Houssein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	6442816
Akhlat Maternity, J. Amn	6244212
Jah Amman Maternity	644236
Malhus, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	6641714
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845/65
Al-Midhat Hospital	6672219
The Islamic, Abdali	66617137
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77811126
Army, Marjeh	8951611
Queen Alia Hospital	6204030
Amal Hospital	674155

MARKET PRICES

<i>Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.</i>	
Apple (Russet)	420 / 350
Apple (green)	470 / 440
Banana	330 / 290
Banana (Mulkammar)	300 / 240
Beans	500 / 400
Cabbages	450 / 350
Carrots (broad)	140 / 100
Carrots (black)	230 / 200
Carrot (yellow)	230 / 200
Cauliflower (white)	210 / 160
Cucumbers	230 / 270
Dates (Ez)	700 / 600
Eggplant (large)	230 / 200

Grapefruit	140 / 100
Lemon	160 / 120
Mandarin	330 / 270
Marrow	290 / 240
Onion (grey)	160 / 120
Onion (red)	210 / 170
Oranges (Ala surra)	330 / 270
Oranges (Shammoun)	330 / 270
Pepper (hot)	460 / 400
Pepper (sweet)	340 / 280
Peas	150 / 100
Radish	100 / 80
Spinach	180 / 120

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the formation of a new board of trustees for Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma. The board comprises Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat, Planning Minister Taber Kanaan, Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabba'a, Rajai Muasher, Walid Asfour, Abdullah Al Nsour, Ali Ghandour, Ziad Inab, Sa'ad Al Tal, Farouq Al Zubi, Khalidoun Abu Hassan, Naji Al Hariri, and Siham Al Qasem. The present board will serve for a three-year term, ending in 1990.

SOVIETS ARRIVE: A Soviet delegation from the Religious Affairs Council (RAC), led by Chairman Constantine Kharchev arrived here Friday on a four-day official visit at the invitation of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Khayyat. The delegation will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials, including Sheikh Khayyat, religious-related issues. In an arrival statement Kharchev spoke highly of the strong relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union. He said the Jordanian and Soviet views were identical in most cases, and particularly on the need for finding a just and durable solution to the Palestine question.

FRENCH MINISTER: French Minister of Post and Telecommunications Gerart Longuet is due here Sunday on a two-day official visit to Jordan for talks on means of enhancing bilateral relations in the field of telecommunications. Longuet will hold talks with Minister of Communications Khalid Haj Hassan. He will also meet with Planning Minister Taher Kanaan.

NORTH YEMEN: Ministry of Awqaf Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Thursday received a North Yemeni delegation representing the ministries of awqaf and transport. Abbadi discussed with the delegation issues pertaining to Jordan's experience in the field of pilgrimage transportation and accommodation in the holy places.

VISIT CONCLUDED: A Jordanian educational delegation has concluded a ten-day visit to Iraq during which Jordanian-Iraqi educational cooperation was discussed. The director of Greater Amman Educational Department Ahmad Arabiyat who led the delegation said that he conducted talks with Iraqi ministry of education officials and briefed them on Jordanian educational system, examination programmes and different school stages; and also outlined the Ministry of Education's programmes for eradicating illiteracy in the Kingdom. The delegation, he said, looked into programmes for eradicating illiteracy in Iraq and visited a number of educational institutions, children's nurseries and other centres.

EXPATRIATES HOUSING: A meeting opens in Dubai, UAE, today to orient Jordanian expatriates in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Jordanian housing projects and ownership of housing units in cooperation with the Housing Bank and the Oman Bank. A delegation, led by the Housing Bank's deputy director arrived in Dubai earlier this week and met with Jordan's ambassador in Dubai and briefed him on the objectives of moves to offer Jordanian expatriates the opportunity of owning homes in their country and to contribute to development projects in the Kingdom.



FUGITIVE: The police published the photo of Suleman Salem Eid (above) from Karamah who has been undergoing treatment at the mental hospital in Fuhais, and said that he had escaped from the centre. The police statement said that the man who escaped on Feb. 5 is wanted by the police and is mentally sick and dangerous. He is dark, medium-built and nearly 175 cm. tall. The police urge the public to report about his whereabouts if and when seen anywhere in the country.

OPEN LETTER TO GEORGE SHULTZ:

What about Palestinians human rights?

The following open letter, addressed to the visiting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, was signed by Karen Asfour, president of Basira-Insight, a society that groups Americans living in Jordan.

WE Americans, living in Jordan, welcome you on your visit to the Middle East. We would like to take this opportunity to address some issues which we hope will give you a new perspective. We base our opinions in our experiences here, and on our American principles, which we assume are shared by you.

The U.S. says Israel is the only democratic country in the Middle East. This "democratic" label leads American policy-makers to excuse Israeli actions and blindly support any Israeli demands. Israel isn't a democracy. One-third of its population cannot participate in the democratic process. It is, in fact, a state without a constitution and bill of rights. Its citizenship is based on racial and religious affiliation. The U.S. says that the PLO is a terrorist organisation, and therefore will not establish a dialogue with it, nor accept it as the chosen representative of the Palestinian people. Based upon this same premise, why is there dialogue with the Israeli leadership, when their terrorist activities have been known and documented by the international community for decades? Following this same double standard, the PLO headquarters in Washington, D.C. was labelled a terrorist organisation and closed, but not the Jewish Defence League, which has been documented by the FBI, as being the leading terrorist group in the U.S.

In the February 21, 1988 issue of the Jordan Times, you were quoted as saying that "the Soviet Union must face up to its human rights problems if it wants to participate in the Middle East peace conference...." Human rights had "pride of place" on your agenda for talks with Shevardnadze and Gorbachev, and you said that "they have some work to do that will make their presence at an international conference more acceptable from our standpoint and Israel's standpoint." Mr. Shultz, how can you make these statements, when Israel daily violates Palestinian human rights? The Israelis are still enforcing the British Mandatory Emergency Laws and Regulations of 1945, which include:

Administrative detention, arrest without warrant or charges, house arrest; restriction of movement, banishment from place of residence, deportation from the country; censorship of mail, newspapers,

publications, books, and telegrams; termination of employment by order of the ministry of defence; confiscation of property or its destruction; demolition of homes, and imposing curfews.

At this is done without legal recourse or due process. These horrors are being inflicted on Arabs, who have lived continuously in Palestine from the days of Abraham, by Jews, many of whom arrived only 40 years ago and established Israel. This new state immediately disenfranchised the indigenous population.

The United States Foreign Assistance Act, Section 116 (d) and 502 (b) "forbids the U.S. government to extend its economic assistance to a foreign country, the government of which violates internationally recognised human rights." And yet, Israel receives the largest percentage of our foreign aid — a multi-billion dollar value. In a 1985 poll, a majority of U.S. citizens thought this aid was excessive. Still, the aid continues to Israel, which continues a military occupation of another country. This is clearly in violation of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act.

We urge you to accept the assessment of King Hussein, and back a United Nations-sponsored international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and the PLO. As the King said in his February statement to the 1988 Harvard National Model United Nations: "Any bilateral agreement between only two parties in the conflict would result in no more than a stop-gap measure devoid of any real peace. For any settlement to hold, it must be honoured by the parties involved in the conflict and guaranteed by the international community, whose involvement is necessary to ensure the permanency of the agreement reached. No process can ever succeed, nor any peace ever last without the participation and consent of the primarily injured party, the Palestinians."

How can the U.S. refuse to support King Hussein and his moderate, enlightened leadership in the Middle East? He has been a reliable and true friend to the U.S., whereas the "great friend Israel," has spied upon the U.S., and are threatening world peace with the possibility of pulling us into a superpower confrontation.

The U.S. government has lost its prestige in the Middle East. Its foreign policy is one of vacillation which destroys credibility. You now have the opportunity to bring about a settlement to this conflict and in so doing, redeem our reputation.

SCF, QAF collaborate in Maan

MAAN (Petra) — The Jordanian chapter of the Save the Children Fund (SCF) has embarked on a number of social and agricultural

projects in the Maan Governorate in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), according to SCF's su-

pervisor Yousef Attallah.

Attallah said that work is going on at a project for safeguarding traditional handicrafts and improving agricultural production in and around Maan as means for improving local people's income. Projects like poultry farming, bee-breeding, irrigating fields around homes and horticulture are among schemes being implemented in Maan Governorate.

The fund, acting upon directives from Her Royal Highness Princess Basma who is QAF's president, last year carried out several programmes and activities in child care, the training of women in useful domestic activities and health education in a number of regions, Attallah said. He said that the fund's activities

benefitted 500 children in rural regions around Baqaa, Taibeb, Sadaqa in Bassa and that children's clubs offered training in computer, carpentry, electricity, handicrafts and also sports programmes.

Attallah noted that 40 lectures were delivered last year aimed at providing education to rural women in health and social work fields. The fund's teams made 45 visits to schools, homes and children's clubs and centres in the course of offering help in civil defence, first aid, domestic work and child care. A total of 150 women graduated from the fund's centres that offered training courses in dress making, weaving, typing, and other handicrafts and trades.

Plentiful rain water fills the dams

AMMAN — The recent rainfall in Jordan has raised the amounts of water stored behind the King Talal Dam to 66 million cubic metres out of its total capacity of 82 million, according to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Vice President Mohammad Al Aaleem. He said that the stored water augurs well for the coming agricultural season.

Aaleem said that the dam's walls had been raised to cope with additional quantities of water that flow onto the reservoir from the wadis and streams from different regions.

The Wadi Al Arab Dam, he said, now holds 15 million cubic metres of water out of a capacity of 20 million, while the Al Kaf-

rain Dam which has a capacity of 4.5 million cubic metres is already full. He said that other smaller dams in the Kingdom, specially in the semi-desert regions, have also been filled with rain water securing enough water for irrigating farm lands in the coming summer.

Expatriates start fund

AMMAN (Petra) — A special fund has been established by Jordanian expatriates in Bahrain in implementation of resolutions adopted by Jordanian Expatriates Conferences held over the past three years in Amman, according to the Director of Expatriates Affairs Department at the Labour Ministry Azmi Al Muhtaseb.

Muhtaseb said that the fund which was established earlier this year is chaired by Amjad Majali, Jordan's ambassador to Bahrain.

On the board are 17 members representing various Jordanian workers in Bahrain, according to Muhtaseb who has recently toured the Gulf region to discuss expatriates affairs.

Khammash exhibits in Bonn

BONN (J.T.) — An exhibition of art works by Jordanian architect and artist Ammar Khammash is currently on display at the Institute for Foreign Exchange of Cultural Relations (IFA). Jordan's ambassador to West Germany Sbarif Fawwaz Sharaf opened the exhibition on Feb. 23.

This will be Khammash's second exhibition in West Germany and is financed by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. His first presentation of art work took place at the Foreign Office in Bonn.

Following previous presentations of a similar exhibition to the public in Louisiana, Kansas and Amsterdam, the exhibition in Bonn comprises photographs mainly depicting architectural environments of 9 Jordanian villages during the first half of this century.

It falls within the framework of intensified exchange of German-Jordanian cultural activities which were highlighted by the most successful exhibition "9000 years of Art and Culture in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" held at the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum in Cologne. Officially inaugurated by Her Majesty

Queen Noor in October 1987, the exhibition which will run until the end of March 1988 is expected to attract approximately 75,000 visitors.

Khammash had also contributed a great deal to the success of this exhibition by showing his photographs and by constructing a village interior.

In this respect Dr. Mouawiyah Ibrahim and Dr. Zeidan Kafafi

from the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Yarmouk University in Irbid gave and will give lectures about the history and the daily life in Jordan at the Museum in Cologne. Through all these events Jordan is presented to a huge number of interested people in a way which will certainly contribute to the steadily growing flow of German tourists to Jordan.



Anthony Peebles



John Georgiadis

200 years of classical music

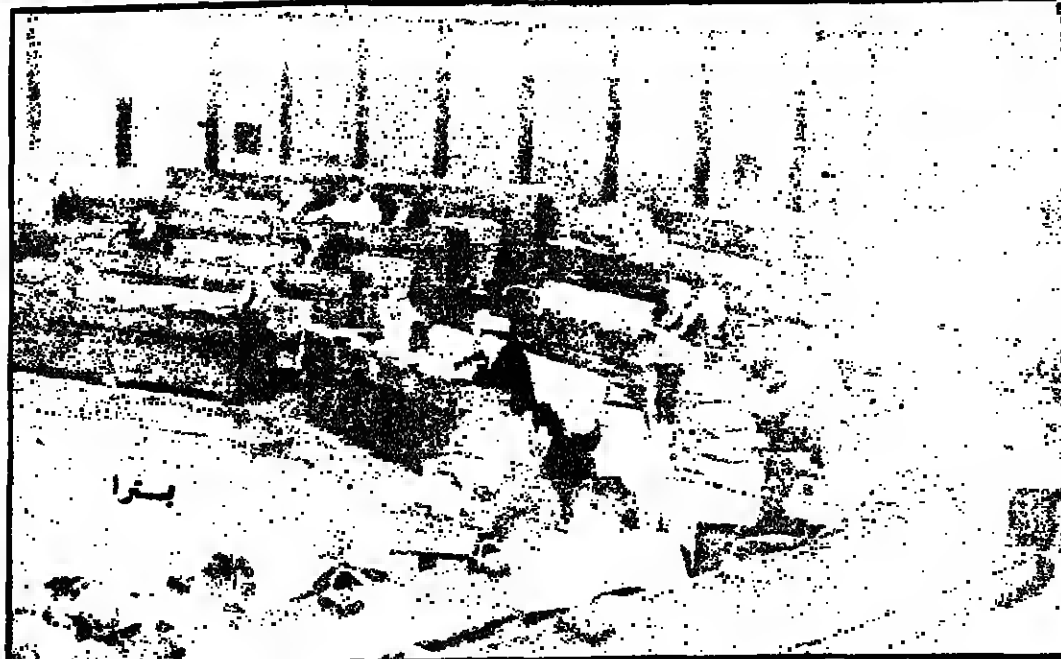
By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The British Council presents a classical music recital at the Amman Baccalaureate School's theatre, today at 7:30 p.m. Anthony Peebles on piano and John Georgiadis on violin will play 3 sonata for violin and piano: Johannes Brahms' sonata in G major, Jean-Marie Le Clair's sonata in D and Edward Elgar's sonata in A minor. The programme thus covers an exceptionally wide span, from the 18th century (Le Clair) to the 20th (Elgar).

Although less known than Elgar and Brahms, Le Clair is one of the most important French composers who lived at the beginning of the 18th century. His work is characterised by an interesting blend of French and Italian baroque styles and an advanced violin technique. The structure of Brahms sonata in G is unusual in many aspects: The main theme which comes, goes and returns at unexpected moments, a long exposition and a drama expressed briefly and in the development

only. Two very distinguished figures of the classical world, Anthony Peebles and John Georgiadis have given numerous recitals world wide and can be considered among the greatest contemporary performers. Peebles has studied with the celebrated French pianist Yvonne Lefebvre and has won the BBC Piano Competition in 1971 and the Claude Debussy Competition in France in 1972. He has toured more than 100 different countries and is very active in Great Britain where he has appeared as soloist with the leading orchestras. John Georgiadis has given more than 250 solo recitals since 1973 in addition to conducting various musical ensembles. Georgiadis has also been leader of the famous London Symphony Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

With two such fine performers and their impressive background the recital should add one more milestone to the series of classical events music lovers in Jordan have had the chance to attend for the last few years.



Lower House in session Thursday (Petra photo)

House debates, approves higher education law amendment

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai assured Parliament Thursday of the government's continued support for the maintenance and preservation of Jordanian universities' independence and freedom with the aim of always helping upward development of higher education in Jordan.

Speaking at a regular Lower House of Parliament session, Rifai was defending an amendment to the higher education law shifting the presidency of the Higher Education Council from the prime minister to the minister of higher education. Parliament passed the amendment.

Rifai explained that this amendment was adopted by the government based on recommendations from the Royal Commission for the reform of the civil service structure. According to Rifai the number of institutions and committees chaired by the prime minister reached 23 and that the prime minister had not been able to attend most of their meetings.

"The aim of amending these laws is to put the responsibility under specialised ministers thus decentralising power, and that is the most rational management structure," Rifai said.

Irbid Deputy Jamal Obaidat, had reservation on the amendment. He stressed the importance of higher education in Jordan describing it as one of the most important "national issues" which would require important decision-making and quick and effective action. Obaidat called for maintaining the council's chairmanship under the prime minister rather than the minister of higher education.

Rifai agreed with the jest of Obaidat's argument but added

that the whole educational system, in all its stages, was as important as higher education and that while other stages of education did not require the presidency of the prime minister why should higher education.

He added that "this amendment goes along with the practice adopted in different countries which have such committees," and that allocating the responsibility to the minister of higher

education preserves "public interests, competent work process, the carrying out of responsibilities and the development of higher education."

Deputy Abdullah Akaileh, called for total independence of the Jordanian universities from the government through the Ministry of Higher Education because that would turn the universities into "government bodies which is against their independence."

Agricultural credit law

The Lower House also discussed the agricultural credit corporation law passed to the House by its legal committee, after approval.

Dr. Ahmad Koufahi, called for crossing out of an article in the law which limits the percentage of profit shared by the farmer and the corporation.

Rifai briefs House on Jordan's support for uprising

AMMAN — During a closed session Thursday, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai briefed the Lower House of Parliament on Jordan's efforts in support of the national uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Rifai also briefed the House on His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to maintain a united Arab stand in support of the uprising and in gaining world support for the cause of the Palestinian people.

Rifai cited the statement made by the foreign ministers of the European Community which denounced Israel's treatment of Palestinians living in occupied Arab territories and supported Arab demands for an international peace conference, as an exam-

ple of the success of the King's recent visit to Europe.

According to a parliament member who spoke on condition of anonymity, "there is a united Arab stand that includes especially, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

The deputy said that recent talks held between Jordan and the PLO have brought about a PLO stand in support of the "same Arab demands, bringing about a totally unified Arab position."

The deputy added that Rifai has assured the House of Jordan's continued "support for the uprising, whether financially or through the media making use of all its available channels."

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للإستفسار

Foster-mother for AIDS girl Anna

By Helmut Brenner

ANNA was born in 1983. She is as big as a four-year-old should be but she behaves like a one-year-old and shows all the signs of brain damage.

She can't walk or speak properly. She wears pink rompers. Her extremely thin arms and legs are obviously lame.

The child is growing but she isn't healthy. Doctors do not believe she will reach adulthood. Anna has AIDS.

"I love her. I want to have her as long as I can," said Lis Spans, her foster-mother.

Lis Spans, 46, an antiques dealer in Düsseldorf, held the child close to her breast. Anna's head flopped weakly on her foster-mother's shoulder.

Anna has large, dark eyes. She laughs at her foster-mother and makes guttural sounds to show that she felt well.

Anna contracted AIDS from her mother who was a drug addict and caught the disease from sharing a hypodermic syringe.

Fran Spans said: "Her mother was a victim of the times and became drug-dependent when scientists and prominent journalists trivialised the dangers of drug-taking."

Anna has had to be treated at the Düsseldorf University Hospital several times for inflammation of the lung and sudden bouts of fever.

She is one among 46 children who have had tests that were AIDS-positive.

Eight of them have, like Anna, the fully-fledged disease. They have either been infected by blood transfusions or they have



Lis Spans holds Anna (photo by Kinder-AIDS-Hilfe)

been infected by their mothers, members of high risk groups, either prostitutes or drug addicts.

Many of the mothers have since died. No-one knows where Anna's father is. She became an orphan in 1986 when her mother died.

As a baby Anna developed normally. She learned to speak and to walk. At 18 months she was given a routine inoculation against polio and was immediate-

"She cared for the poor darling right up to the end, so long as her strength held out," Lis Spans said.

After a little reflection she took in her neighbour's little daughter because "she needed a mother's love and care."

But not every child infected with AIDS is lucky enough to find a plucky foster-mother. So Lis Spans has set up an organisation named "Assistance for Children with AIDS."

Together with Gabriele Henkel, wife of an industrialist, and the wives of other prominent industrialists, she is collecting funds via her organisation for a separate ward for children with AIDS to be built in the grounds of Düsseldorf University Hospital.

The present ward is already crowded.

It caters for infectious diseases of all kinds — an additional danger to immune deficiency patients. If enough funds are collected then a separate building will be put up for AIDS sufferers.

But many prejudices have to be overcome along the way. Lis Spans has not yet been able to find office accommodation for her "Assistance for Children with AIDS" organisation.

Two landlords refused her office space point-blank when they heard the name of the organisation applying to rent their property.

"I don't want people with AIDS ringing my doorbell," said one Düsseldorf property owner to Lis Spans.

Little Anna was listening attentively and at this point she gave a radiant smile — Die Welt, Bonn.



Fake jade is sold to Wisconsin store owners Fritz Ragatz and his wife, Barbara, at China's Canton Trade Fair. The couple later realised they had paid too little for jade. Although their agent earlier had declared the goods genuine, analysts back home called them bowenite.

Scientifically and legally, only nephrite and jadeite can be called jade. But dealers in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan claim that three dozen stones are jade.

Beware: Jade look-alikes flood market

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — All that's green and carved is not jade, and all that's jade is not green.

"No wonder the world is confused about jade. Dealers in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan claim three dozen different stones are jade," Fred Ward writes in the September, 1987 National Geographic.

No more than half the carvings from Central America exhibited as jade actually are, says one expert. Through innovative scientific testing, Ward proved that a Maya masterpiece previously thought to be jade, a funeral mask from Tikal, Guatemala, is not.

Jade look-alikes abound, and finding true jade, called the "Stone of Heaven" by the ancient Chinese, can be like chasing a rainbow.

"It has become all too convenient to name any stone operation a 'jade factory'. Marketing the cheaper output as jade to unsuspecting tourists is rampant in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan," Ward reports.

Scientifically and legally, only two stones should be called jade: nephrite and jadeite. The two are chemically distinct materials. Both are technically rocks, usually boulders or cobbles lying on the earth's surface.

The more plentiful nephrite, a silicate of calcium and magnesium, is harder than most steel and reputedly the toughest of all rocks, the most difficult to break. The stone — at the traditional centre of Chinese civilisation for more than 5,000 years — is also found in abundance in western

Canada and Australia. Nephrite occurs in a variety of colours with fanciful names, such as "mutton fat" white, long favoured by the Chinese.

Priceless

Jadeite, a silicate of sodium and aluminium, has the bright green associated with jewellery, although it is found in a rainbow of less valuable colours. Slightly harder than nephrite, but not as tough, commercial jadeite comes only from Burma, Guatemala, and the Soviet Union. The Burmese imperial green is among the most prized.

Three ancient civilisations, the Chinese, Mesoamerican, and the Maori of New Zealand, considered jade the most precious possession, beyond gold and gems. "One can put a price on gold," the saying went, "but jade is priceless."

Chinese emperors spoke to God through disks of jade with holes in the middle, symbols of heaven. Jade was the link in China between earth and heaven. Athletes won ivory for third place and gold for second, with jade reserved for first.

China's most beloved jade washes from the fabled Kunlun Mountains in Xinjiang Province into the bed of the White Jade River. The Kunlun, the original "jade mountains," appear to have been Asia's sole source of jade from prehistoric times until the 1700s.

A manager of the Beijing Jade Carving Factory told Ward that his craftsmen now use very little nephrite. Soapstone and agate account for 75 per cent of their finished pieces, with Burmese jadeite making up most of the

difference.

A factory official at the South Jade Crafts Factory in Guangzhou said that his workers carve soapstones instead of white jade or nephrite. The factory makes about \$2 million worth of jadeite jewellery a year. It uses \$700,000 worth of Burmese jadeite annually, 45 per cent of it bought at the Burma government auction, 50 per cent smuggled through Thailand, and 5 per cent smuggled in through Yunnan, the official said.

"Direct Burmese smuggling to China is a new wrinkle in the shady world of jadeite trading — and unknown to outsiders until now," Ward writes. Far closer to Burmese mines than Thailand, the Yunnan connection lets China avoid middlemen and deal directly.

Virtually unknown in China before 1784, when a shipment arrived in Beijing following a Burma trade treaty, the flashier jadeite in 200 years effectively displaced nephrite for jewellery and commerce, Ward reports.

Jade deserves better

Has China rejected its jade heritage? "I continued to meet numerous young carvers who had never put a drill to nephrite," he writes. "And in factory stores I saw far more Burmese jadeite jewellery than nephrite."

Today the world's major nephrite production occurs across the Pacific in Canada, from British Columbia's gigantic surface deposits.

Taiwan and B.C. miners caused the mess we're in," says British Columbia mine owner Kirk Makepeace of the world's

current disdain for nephrite. "We produced too much and sold it for peanuts. Then Taiwan cheapened it with junk jewellery and carvings, making people think jade was just shabby and green."

More than 400 tonnes of British Columbian nephrite is imported into Taiwan annually, carved, and methodically exported as Taiwan jade, Ward writes.

"I've been just as glibly as any other miner, but no longer," Makepeace told Ward. "This is a precious, nonrenewable resource...I'm going to be independent of Taiwan now, refusing to sell my jade at giveaway prices. My secret weapon is China. I've broken into that market."

In Central America, Ward discovered, jade is often not what it appears. When he suspected that a mosaic Maya funeral mask was incorrectly labelled jadeite, National Geographic financed a test with a new portable light spectrometer. Although designed for remote earth sensing, the instrument confirmed that only the mask's ear flares are jade.

A specific-gravity test that Ward ordered for a 3-pound Maya plaque from Copan, Honduras, proved that it isn't jade. "I doubt if half the artifacts from this region (Central America) exhibited anywhere are really jade," says Ron Bishop, a senior research archaeologist at the Smithsonian Institution.

To add to the confusion, many archaeologists and museum curators suggest that it doesn't really matter what these carvings are, as long as they're green.

"Too bad," Ward concludes about jade's diminished stature in the world. "Jade deserves better."

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — Feb. 27, 1988

8:30 Married with Children
But I didn't Shoot the Deputy

Like any red-blooded American, when Al hears a strange sound in the night, he springs to the defence of his home and family and accidentally shoots the neighbour's dog.

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film
Manhattan Manhunt

Mackload is a detective in New York who investigates into the case of a man who robs drug stores. He tries to find out the culprit and motive. He, also, investigates into the case of the murder of the first girl in a singing and dancing theatre.

Sun. — Feb. 28, 1988

8:30 Farrington
Sons and Lovers

Finding an abandoned baby is just one problem for the Consul General. Discovering that its father is a member of her staff is another.

9:10 Doc. — The Making of a Continent
The Great River

The episode is about the Mississippi, the largest river in the world and one of the longest. In addition to its many uses in irrigation, its waters are now being utilised for energy generation.

10:20 Secret Army
Identity in Doubt

Mon. — Feb. 29, 1988

8:30 Are You Being Served?

9:10 Vanity Fair
Widow and Mother

10:20 Feature Film
Deadly Care

Starring:
Cheryl Ladd
Jennifer Salt
Jason Miller
Richard Evans

A painstaking nurse, who is addicted to medicines, tranquilisers

and alcohol is sacked. She joins another hospital but gets sacked again. She tries to commit suicide and gets admitted to a sanatorium. She recovers and starts to help those nurses addicted to medicines and alcohol.

Tue. — Mar. 1, 1988

8:30 No Place Like Home

Arthur and Beryl are concerned about Trevor's loneliness in Vera's absence. They give a dinner-party for him and invite a widow to make up the foursome. When she cannot come, Trevor asks if he may bring a friend who works in the local florist shop, but his companion turns out to be something of an embarrassment.

9:10 Standby... Light!
Camera! Action!

An episode about the imaginary scientific films and cinema tricks used in such films.

10:20 Murder She Wrote
Dead Man's Gold

11:10 Three's Company

Wed. — Mar. 2, 1988

8:30 Sweet Surrender

The new comedy series (Sweet Surrender) stars Mark Blum and Dana Delany as Ken and Georgia Holden, a typical modern young couple coping with the demands of a promising career and a hectic family life. Georgia's career is temporarily put on hold to raise their two young children, Bart and Lynnie. Ken and Georgia experience the joys, frustrations, happiness and disappointments of trying to be super-spouses, super-parents, super-friends and super-career people "trying to do it all."

9:00 Doc. — Well Being
The Wall of Silence

No-one knows the full extent of medical accidents. Some are unavoidable, others are caused by doctor's negligence. The results are often tragic — death or permanent serious disability. This programme however focuses on the extra burden of misery suffered by the victims and their relatives after the accident. Too often a wall of silence descends and no explanation of why the



Tales of the Unexpected, A Time to Die, Wednesday at 9:35

accident may have happened is forthcoming.

9:35 Tales of the Unexpected
A Time to Die

French electronics expert Yves (David Suchet) is in trouble: His lovely young mistress Violette (Jemma Redgrave) issues an ultimatum — marriage or else — and his wife Marthe (Nina Van Pallandt) refuses to divorce him. He thinks up a perfect solution but — by a million to one chance — his clever plan goes dreadfully wrong.

10:20 Hold the Dream

At Pennistone Royal Henry Rossiter reads Emma's Will. Some of the family are disappointed and there is an uproar until Paula restores order. Jonathan and Sarah are unmasked and Jim finally agrees to a divorce — for a price, but he and David are killed in a plane crash. Paula's grief and guilt make her reject Shane. She buries herself in her work until a violent attack on her by Ross Nelson shocks her back to reality.

Thurs. — Mar. 3, 1988

8:30 Kate and Allie

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Feature Film
Kids Like These

Starring:
Tyne Daly
Richard Crenna
Martin Balsam

The triumphs and heartbreaks of raising a Down's Syndrome child are movingly portrayed in this film. Joanna and Bob Goodman are the couple who decide to bring their afflicted child Alex home to raise him rather than give him up to an institution. They face ignorance and scorn from the medical community and from their own neighbours, yet they persevere.

Fri. — Mar. 4, 1988

8:30 Growing Pains
A Reason to Live

Jason comes to terms with his professional self-doubt as a competent psychiatrist when he is able to stop a young girl from committing suicide.

9:10 Magnum

10:20 Falcon Crest
Flash Point

11:10 Some Mothers do Have Them

THE LITTLE HANDS PRESENTS A MUSICAL SHOW WITH REMI BANDALY AND

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Al-Raed Al-Araby School Amman Baccalaureate School
The Greek College for Girls (The Nazzerte Sisters)

Funds raised will be for the benefit of the Physically Handicapped Children's Centre in Mafrak, who are in need of wheelchairs and Physio Therapy equipment and also for the benefit of the Deaf and Dumb Centre for children in Nabliu who need Hearing Test Equipment and Hearing Aids.

The Musical Show will take place at the Palace of Culture/Al-Hussein Sports City, from (March):
Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th,
Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th.

Morning Performances: 9:00 - 10:00 also 11:00 - 12:00 * Afternoon performances: 4:00 - 5:30 * Friday 4th March Performances: 11:00 - 12:30 also 4:00 - 5:30
Tickets for Schools: JD 1 * Tickets for Public: JD 1 & JD 2 *

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Jabal Amman	Iskani Bookshop	Al Rabiah	Al Rabiah Bakery
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	Abu Dahab Centre	Um Uthman	Divan Pattinson
	Smur's Tower/Tower Bldg	Mecca Street	Pizza Hut
	First Bookshop	Downtown	Video Hawamah
	Sweet Supermarket	Al Hussein Sports City	Terrace Barber Shop
	Nasser Al Deen Supermarket	Jordan University Str.	Highway Supermarket
Jabal Leiwidich	Fraser Bookshop	Wadiat	Abdoun Pharmacy
Jabal El Hussein	Kalal Supermarket	Nazal Area	Ala Al
Jabal Al Nasser	Alkawa Supermarket	Bayader Wadi Amer	Nazal Social Centre
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Swedish	Jordan Green Valley Farms		Branches
	Fouad Supermarket		Khaled Bookshop

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Tickets will be sold at the entrance of the
Palace of Culture
Al Hussein Sports City.

Tomba bags first gold; Soviets continue medal sweep

CALGARY (Agencies) — New men's Alpine skiing sensation Alberto Tomba swept to his first Olympic title Thursday as one of the most seasoned veterans of Winter Games history bowed out with yet another medal.

Tomba cruised to an emphatic triumph in the men's giant slalom to deny Austrian Hubert Strolz and Switzerland's Pirmin Zurbriggen their second golds of the games in a race marked by 19 first leg disqualifications.

But while the Italian was climbing the medalists' rostrum at Mount Allan, 35-year-old Soviet Raisa Smetanina was announcing her retirement from Nordic skiing after a bronze in the women's 20-km cross-country at Canmore took her medals total from four games to a record-equaling nine.

The Soviets swept the honours in the event, the final women's Nordic ski race, with Tamara Tikhonova collecting gold and Anissa Reizsova silver.

But the podium belonged to Smetanina, who shares the record for the most Winter Games medals with another Nordic skier,

Sweden's Sixten Jernberg. The success of the cross-country trio took the Soviet men's and women's Nordic medals total to a record 13. Their previous best performance was 10 at the 1976 Innsbruck Games — and the men's marathon is still to come Saturday.

1988 WINTER OLYMPICS

The Soviets extended their lead at the top of the medals table. They have nine gold, nine silver and seven bronze to second-placed East Germany's seven gold, six silver and four bronze.

Pre-race favourite Tomba captured the gold with ease as Strolz, combination gold medalist, and downhill champion Zurbriggen collected silver and bronze respectively in the only other medal event of the 13th day.

The Italians became the fourth

nation to win an Alpine ski title here. The other is West Germany, for whom Marina Kiehl won the women's downhill.

Tomba, a winner of seven world cup races this season, will also start favourite to win Saturday's slalom, final event of the men's Alpine programme.

While conditions for Tomba at Mount Allan and for Tikhonova at Canmore were perfect, Calgary again basked in warm sunshine abnormal for this time of year.

Race officials were predicting

the heat could cause problems for the four-man bobs at the weekend and announced a breakfast start time for the event Saturday.

"Wonderful games" Meanwhile organising committee chairman Frank King insisted the warm weather was not harming the games.

"We're having wonderful games," Frank King said Thursday, his smile as warm as the sun which has removed almost all trace of natural snow from Calgary.

As he spoke, tarpaulins again covered part of the bobsleigh run at Canada Olympic Park to prevent the ice melting during training for the four-man event.

The temperature in Calgary reached 15 Centigrade Thursday, hotter than Mexico City, Nice or Casablanca, and the warmest weather in western Canada for a quarter of a century was forecast to continue until the end of the games Sunday.

Figure skating Katarina Witt of East Germany won the short programme in women's figure skating Thursday night but American Debi Thomas took over first place in the overall Olympic standings by finishing runner up.

Witt, the defending Olympic champion, performed ahead of compulsory figures' winner Kira Ivanova and Thomas and skated a clean programme to Broadway tunes.

The Soviet skater then two-footed a jump-landing during her two-minute programme of required moves and plummeted in the standings.

Thomas, who was second in the school figures, was next. She put on an exciting display of jumps, including a difficult double loop-triple toe loop.

Jordan's new blood in basketball put to test with Chinese Taipei this week

By Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "New elements," represented by younger, more dynamic players, have been introduced to the Jordanian national men's basketball team and will be put to test in three important games starting Saturday with the Chinese Taipei team.

These friendly games, scheduled for Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, are part of the Jordanian team's efforts to prepare for international competitions by playing against international teams.

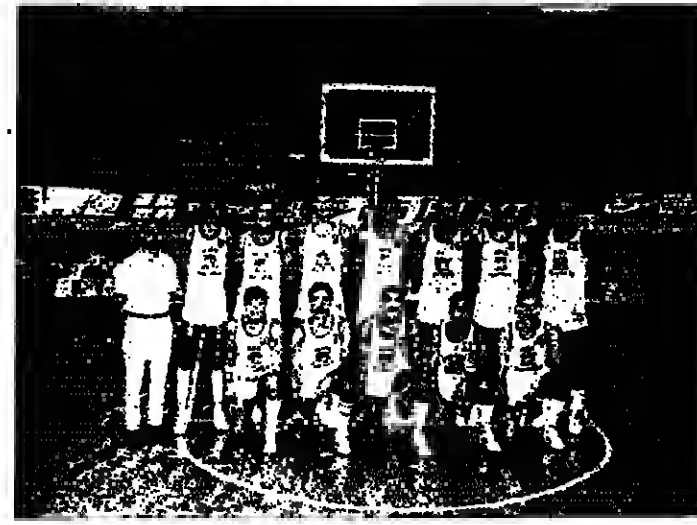
"The team is now in a period of reconstruction and there are a lot of factors to consider. Our meet with Taipei is the first step," said Ali Khan, head coach of the Jordanian men's team. "It will be a chance for us to see if the new players we recruited are sound ones to inject into the team."

The ten new members were selected because "they have a lot of potential," according to Ibrahim Wazmas, vice-president of the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF). Though the new players lack the playing experience of older and more senior team members, the JBF believes their youth, strength and height are major elements that could serve the team effectively.

The new players are in the age range of 16-19 years and they include Fares Al Zarou, Tarek Kamal, Eihab Al Safri, Mahmoud Al Sa'ad, Nidal Bani Hani, Asem Al Saman, Marwan Omar, Malek Khoury, Jan Sahlieh and Raed Al Hajj.

The new players, who joined the team in early January, have been training for 5 sessions, a week. But the competition they face this week is not the type that can easily be brushed aside.

"Taipei plays modern basketball," Khan said, referring to the



Jordan's new national basketball team

Chinese Taipei Division A team. "They have an aggressive defence; they play at a fast pace, execute their moves with perfection and have sharp offensive tactics."

Khan said that friendly games such as the ones this week offer players the experience that enables them to catch up with more experienced team members. "We want to prepare these 17 and 18-year-old members for the future, and we are looking ahead," Khan told a press conference at the JBF office Thursday.

"We promise to play a game that will at least keep up with the reputation of Jordanian basketball. Some people may even be surprised," Khan said.

Saturday's and Wednesday's games will be held at the Sport City's Palace of Sports in Amman, while Monday's game will be held at the Yarmouk University in Irbid.

Jordan was defeated by the Chinese Taipei Division A team in Malaysia in 1987. In the William Jones' Cup International Basketball Tournament in the same year, Jordan beat the Taipei team

81-69. Considering Taipei's long involvement in basketball, it is needed a good record. The Chinese Taipei Basketball Association (CTBA) was one of the original founders of the Asian Basketball Federation in 1960. The CTBA has 12 Division A men's teams and seven Division A women's teams. One hundred university teams and 10,000 male and female mini-basketball players in Taipei are also within the CTBA's jurisdiction. In the 1959 World Basketball Championships the CTBA men's team ranked fourth. They took second place in the second and third Asian Games.

According to JBF member Sa'id Shingom, the two most important upcoming competitions for the Jordanian team are the Arab Youth Championships to be held in Algeria late this year, and the Asian Basketball Championships for Juniors, which may take place in Jordan in the fall, providing approval is obtained from the Asian Basketball Federation.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Junior Teams	Pts	Mide-1 Teams	Pts
Dormna	10	NECC	10
Nash/EBB	8	Danish Dairy	5
Arab Bank	8	Intercon	4
Samar	2	Istiklal	4
Astra	0	EEE	3
Mide-2 Teams	Pts	Senior Teams	Pts
Jor-Exp	10	JWM	10
Marriott	6	France Lait	10
Furukawa	6	La Vache Qui Rit	4
NEP	4	Al Ahlyah	4
GEMT	2	Westinghouse	0

Results of Friday's Games

Juniors	Arab Bank 24
Astra 10	Samar 10
Dormna 24	
Mide-1	Intercon 18
NECC 32	EEE 19
Istiklal 18	
Mide-2	GEMT 29
NEP 27	Marriott 34
Jor-Exp 45	
Seniors	Westinghouse 0
Al Ahlyah 1	France Lait 59
La Vache Qui Rit 40	

Portsmouth's turn to have a go at 'invincible' Liverpool

By Andrew Warshaw
The Associated Press

Stranger things have happened.

LONDON — With the championship title all but sealed, it's records that Liverpool is suddenly chasing as it pursues its charge through the English First Division soccer programme.

Unbeaten after 26 matches of the 40-match league campaign, the Merseyside maestros are just three games away from equalling Leeds United's landmark, set 14 years ago.

In the 1973-4 season, the star-studded Leeds team, managed by Don Revie and regarded as one of the greatest club sides Britain has ever produced, went 29 matches without losing.

Victory at Portsmouth Saturday will edge Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool ever closer to that feat.

Many, including defending league champion Everton and other giants like Arsenal and Manchester United, have tried and failed to disrupt the Liverpool machine since the season began last August.

But regardless of the weather, the conditions, the opposition or changes in its own line-up, Liverpool has been, quite simply, unstoppable.

Only once have the "reds" slipped up. But that was in a Littlewoods Cup match last October when a late Gary Stevens goal that took a deflection gave Everton a 1-0 victory.

In league games, no-one has so far come close to beating them. But down at Portsmouth on the south coast, there is a growing feeling that the Liverpool hnbble might finally burst Saturday.

Portsmouth, promoted from Division Two at the end of last season, may be sixth from bottom in the standings but the club's youth team coach, Peter Osgood, believes a big shock could be in store.

"We are unbeaten this year, on a run of 11 matches without defeat and have built up a team spirit and togetherness that the reds will find irresistible," Osgood, a former England international centre-forward, told the Daily Mirror newspaper.

"Liverpool are not unbeatable. If a side is prepared to match their work for each other, they have a definite chance. And that's been the core of our football recently. They don't scare us," Osgood said.

Portsmouth don't scare easily, in fact. Regarded as one of the First Division's most physical teams, they have not engendered much affection from opposing supporters.

But Osgood said the team, which last weekend reached the quarterfinals of the F.A. Cup for the first time since 1952, can play a bit too.

"Although we have taken a hammering for being over-physical, we have also proved we can knock the ball about a bit," Osgood said. "Earlier in the season we lost 4-0 at Liverpool. I can't see that happening again."

We have improved to such an extent that everyone can't wait to get out there on Saturday and get to grips with them."

Other league games Saturday include Arsenal-Charlton.



Frank-Peter Roetsch of East Germany, right, leads Dmitri Vassiliev of the Soviet Union on the way of gold in the 10-kilometre biathlon. Roetsch became the first person to sweep the Olympic biathlon events when he won both the 20-kilometre and 10-kilometre events

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Philippine Ambassador to Jordan, H.E. Juan V. Saez, is holding an open house for the Filipino community at the Philippine Consulate from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28, to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the people power.

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Eliminated Czechs still big factor in race for hockey gold

CALGARY (AP) — Czechoslovakia, the only team with no chance of an Olympic hockey medal, will determine when the gold is awarded.

The Soviet Union, the defending gold medalist, can win it again as early as Friday if it beats top-seeded Sweden, and Czechoslovakia can beat Finland earlier in the day.

A victory by Finland, however, would set up a gold medal showdown Saturday between the Soviets and Finns.

Friday's other medal-round game will have Canada, looking for its first gold in four medal-round games dating back to 1984, against West Germany. The loser will be knocked out of the medal chase. Already, the best Canada can hope for is a bronze, West Germany a silver.

Czechoslovakia, 1984 silver medalist, was eliminated after a 6-2 loss to Sweden Wednesday which featured one of the tournament's outstanding saves.

Peter Lindmark stopped Jaroslav Benak on a breakaway and kept the Czechs from taking a 2-0 lead in the second period.

"The decisive moment was when Benak didn't score," Czechoslovakia assistant coach Frantisek Pospisil said.

About a minute after Lindmark's save, Sweden scored. Five more Swedish goals followed.

Lindmark will have to be fantastic again when Sweden plays the Soviet Union in Friday night's featured game. Sweden needs a victory to have any chance of a gold medal.

That Lindmark's save was the difference against the Czechs

shouldn't be too surprising. Great goaltending almost always makes the difference in the Olympics.

Could the Soviet Union have ruled the hockey world for the last two decades without the great Vladislav Tretiak?

This year, a number of goalies brought their considerable skills into the Olympics, including Canada's Sean Burke and Andy Moog, Czechoslovakia's Jaromir Sindel and Dominik Hasek, Switzerland's Richard Bucher and Olivier Anken.

Two have stood out: Lindmark and Finland's Jarmo Myllys. Another, Sergei Mylnikov of the Soviet Union, looks beatable. But he hasn't been beaten often enough and the Soviets are 6-0.

It is no coincidence that these three teams — and these three goalies — are all hot assured of winning the gold, silver and bronze medals.

When Canada coach Dave King was asked if the Swedes had a chance of slowing down the Soviet express Friday night, he cited the 32-year-old Lindmark as one of the main reasons why they do.

Coming into the games, Myllys wasn't as well known. Now, however, people are starting to take notice.

"We think he's got a chance to be a National Hockey League goalie," said Minnesota North Stars general manager Lou Nanne, whose team holds Myllys' National Hockey League rights. "He's a reaction goalie. Very quick. We're going to be talking with him about coming over to North America for next season."

Arsenal moves to Littlewoods Cup final

LONDON (R) — Arsenal, chasing a trophy double, emphatically clinched their place in the final of the English League Cup when they beat Everton 3-1 their semi-final second leg match at Highbury Wednesday night.

Holders Arsenal completed a 4-1 aggregate triumph to book their place at Wembley April 24. The London club will face either Luton or Oxford United, who go into their semi-final second leg game Sunday level 1-1.

Luton, seeking the same two cup prizes as Arsenal, reached the quarter-finals of the F.A. Cup with a 1-0 home win against Queen's Park Rangers in a fifth round replay.

Rangers defender Warren Neill, whose goal earned his side a 1-1 draw in the first meeting Saturday, endured misery this time by putting the ball in his own net following a rare flowing and penetrative Luton move in the 58th minute.

Luton have a quarter-final tie on their artificial surface against Portsmouth March 12.

Arsenal, buoyed by a 1-0 first leg win at Everton, swept into the final after missing a penalty immediately before halftime when Martin Hayes fired high over the bar.

Celtic are clear cup favourites following Rangers elimination in a recent major upset.

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PLAZA

BREAKING ALL THE RULES

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Association of Banks elect Khouri as chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Association of Banks in Jordan (ABJ) has elected Zuhair Khouri as chairman and Ahmad Chalabi as deputy chairman of the ABJ board of directors during a meeting held Thursday. Khouri and Chalabi represent the Housing Bank and Petra Bank respectively.

The general assembly elected Jordan National Bank, Bank of Jordan, Grindlays Bank, National Financial Investment Co. and Jordan Investment and Finance Co. as board members.

The board members are represented by Abdul Rahman Thuqan, Michel Marto, Adnan Al Saliakh, Rajai Musher and Basel Jardaneh respectively.

Iraqi firm to assist Arab Mining Company

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Arab Mining Company (Amnico) has concluded a deal under which it will cooperate with the Iraqi Geological Survey Corporation to carry out joint consultancy work. The Iraqi corporation has conducted many survey operations in other parts of the Arab World.

The Iraqi corporation will provide Amnico with expertise in mining and in survey operations, according to the agreement signed by Amnico's Director-General Thabet Al Taher and Director-General Yanes Al Douri for the Iraqi corporation.

Amnico had earlier signed a contract under which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will enable Amnico to conduct studies in mining throughout the Arab and Islamic countries.

Amnico also recently concluded agreements with North and South Yemen to conduct studies on their deposits of marble and granite. The projects are to be financed by the Islamic Development Bank.

AFM daily trading averages JD 407,038

AMMAN (Petra) — A statistical bulletin issued by the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said that the daily volume of trading last week averaged JD 407,038 whereas the total volume of trading amounted to JD 2,035,192.

The total number of shares traded stood at 1,654,098 conducted through a total of 2,051 transactions.

A total of JD 1,585,402 worth of shares were traded last week in the industrial sector, registering 77.9 per cent of the total volume, while the banking sector recorded JD 280,784 or 13.8 per cent of the total volume of trading.

The services sector's percentage was 4.8 and the insurance sector 3.5.

An improvement in the share prices of insurance companies was registered in the past week, while those of the industrial sector registered a slight decline. Share prices of other sectors were stable.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Fichter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Although the morning is good for communication and recognizing opportunities to advance your interests, later in the day you will tend to be too easily upset, so try to be impersonal and objective.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): This situation at home this morning may not be as ideal as you would like, but you can improve this quickly and make some rapid progress.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20): Be extremely accurate when making out any reports or statements today, and don't waste any valuable time this afternoon.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You will have a fine idea on how to handle a financial difficulty, so go ahead with it, but be sure not to change boats in midstream.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Forget your resentment of a co-worker, as this will only hurt your position in the long run. Don't push your opinions on anyone.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): You may not agree with the plans your mate has made, but it will do no good to argue about this. This is not a good time to make important decisions.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): If you must have any important discussions today, make them short and to the point. Set aside some time for relaxation tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23): Handle a long-standing problem quickly this morning so you can move on to more important matters. Your employer can help your progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21): You have some fine ideas which could work to your benefit, so don't let anyone change your mind or distract you from your work.

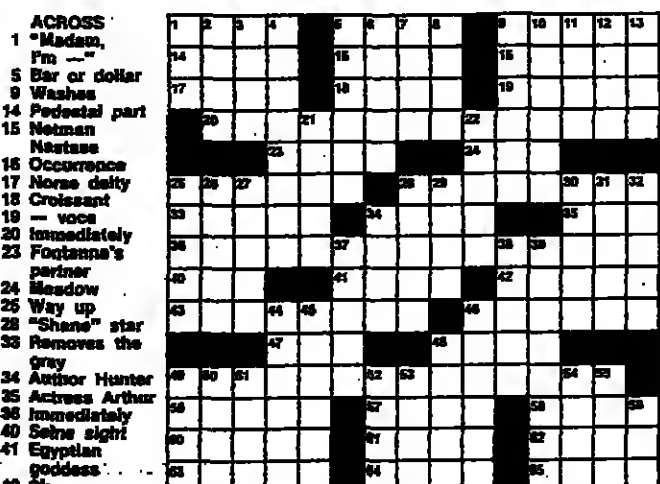
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Take care of any important matters early in the day so you can finish the dull chores you have been putting off for too long.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): You could make an enemy quite easily today by saying the wrong thing, so be very cautious about how you word your thoughts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Some special thought for your mate would be wise this evening, as he or she may be feeling out of sorts. Get plenty of rest tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Try to organize your activities more efficiently. This will make your work easier and give you some needed time for recreation.

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth White



- ACROSS**
- Madam, Pm
 - Bar or dollar
 - Washes
 - Podesta part
 - Netman
 - Nature
 - Occurrence
 - None delay
 - Crossant
 - voca
 - Immediately
 - Fountain's
 - partner
 - Headed
 - Way up
 - "Share" star
 - Removes the
 - gray
 - Author Hunter
 - Archives Arthur
 - Immediately
 - Solar sight
 - Egyptian goddess
 - Shere
 - Went AWOL
 - Kept out
 - Mate lace
 - Antisocial prof.
 - Immediately
 - Sub
 - Out of the
 - wind
 - Moslem leader
 - Tropical vine
 - Whiners
 - Concern
 - River valley
 - city
 - Let stand
 - Obstacle
- DOWN**
- Foss
 - Art style
 - Blue estimate
 - Chalky e.g.
 - Abiding
 - women
 - in the cover's
 - pad
 - Long
 - rue
 - Valley
 - Wane
 - Open
 - declaration
 - Turn thumbs
 - down
 - Intimate prof.
 - Cause
 - RN word
 - Grassy plain
 - Sedate
 - Appellation
 - Polar stakes
 - Sham
 - Passes on the
 - track
 - Detest
 - US diplomat
 - of you
 - Pass
 - Pass
 - Litwise
 - SOS signal
 - Vigorous
 - Scarcely
 - Amiable
 - Flammable
 - Wickerwork
 - material
 - Command
 - Cubic meter
 - Green
 - Bird of 70
 - Antelope of
 - Tibet
 - Musical
 - Domino
 - Fall — (fall)
 - To — (as)
 - Amiable
 - Amiable
 - capitol
 - "Little
 - Women"
 - name

Jordanian, Egyptian businessmen recommend cementing ties through protocols, agreements

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AQABA — A meeting of Jordanian and Egyptian businessmen ended here Friday after adopting a series of recommendations designed to increase the volume of trade and promote tourism between the two countries.

The meeting, which opened Thursday, recommended that both Jordan and Egypt conclude commercial protocols and agreements regulating measures to enhance joint cooperation and remove obstacles that have so far impeded any increase in the volume of commercial exchange between the two countries.

The two-day meeting, attended by leading businessmen in Jordan and Egypt, also recommended

that experts on drugs and medicine exchange visits to look into means for registering and marketing Jordanian and Egyptian drugs and medicine.

Participants called on their respective governments to allow ferry boats to make additional voyages and to permit tourist groups arriving in Jordanian and Egyptian ports to stop at the foreigners entry point and to exchange the international triptych they hold with a special one, similar to the one in force between Jordan and Syria.

The Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council also called for the establishment of an information centre in each country to facilitate cooperation in the area of trade exchange and investments.

The council urged Amman and Cairo to adopt measures to protect investments of Jordanians and Egyptians in both countries.

The meeting also called on both governments to improve their land and sea facilities by expanding and modernising the transport infrastructure, mainly in the way of promoting tourism.

They called for the establishment of joint ventures and companies that could direct investments of businessmen in both countries to taking part in joint project.

Jordanian Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni Thursday met in Aqaba with Egyptian Tourism Minister Fuad Sultan and discussed with him the implementation of tourist projects in southern Sinai and Aqaba.

The two ministers, who attended the council meetings, also discussed the exchange of tourist groups visiting either country and cooperation in exchanging expertise and training in hotel management and tourist activity.

Ajlouni said that the ministry was discussing laws that would remove several obstacles in the way of increasing the volume of Jordan's tourism potential.

At the end of the Aqaba meeting, participants sent cables to His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, thanking them for hosting the meeting in Jordan.

Cities and Villages Development Bank grants JD 19,000 credits

AMMAN (Petra) — The municipal council of Sibhan in Balqa governorate will get a JD 5,000 loan from the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) to finance its municipal projects, according to a decision by the CVDB board of directors. The board also approved a JD 14,000 loan to the Adnanieh municipal council in Karak governorate to help it finance the purchase of property for public use.

Ministry spends nearly JD 1m on building schools at Qaser

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Education last year spent JD994,580 on constructing school buildings at the town of Qaser near Karak, according to Karak Education Department Director Ahmad Shobaki.

He said that work is now underway for building a vocational school for girls at Rabbeh at a cost of JD 25,000. This year, he said, the ministry will complete work on other school buildings started last year and will also set up annexes to a number of schools in a number of regions.

Oil prices skid below \$15

LONDON (R) — Traders' anxieties about a glut have pushed North Sea oil prices below \$15 a barrel, the lowest this year, and some market experts predict further falls.

Weak prices for oil sold on the free market — U.S. crude prices are also at their lowest this year — threaten efforts by the OPEC group to charge \$18, the fixed price it mandates on its 13 members.

Market sources said cargoes of crude from the North Sea Brent field, for prompt loading, were quoted at \$14.40/\$55 Friday, the lowest since Dec. 17.

Brent was above \$20 in August 1987. Such experts as Geoff Fyne at London stockbrokers Phillips and Drew say it may drop to \$14 soon, although he saw little likelihood of prices going into an uncontrolled tailspin.

The new falls, which took the U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil below \$16 Thursday, were triggered by figures by the U.S. Energy Information Administration showing an 8.5 million barrel rise in American

domestic crude stocks.

More fundamentally, analysts blame excess output by OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) in the second half of 1987, when it pumped up to 3.5 million barrels per day (b/d) over its self-imposed 16.6 million b/d ceiling.

With slack demand, this brought stocks in the industrial nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to their highest for five years.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) estimated that OECD government and oil company stocks on Jan. 1, 1988, at 99 days' forward consumption, two days more than a year ago.

Apart from 102 days' of stocks at end-1982, the level was the highest since IEA records began in 1974.

Evidence suggests that stocks in the first quarter of this year are not falling as fast as expected, partly due to weak demand caused by a mild winter, particularly in West Europe.

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait posts big loss after provisions

BAHRAIN (R) — Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK), the largest commercial bank in Bahrain, reported a 23.4 million dinar (\$62 million) loss on 1987 accounts after raising provisions against bad and doubtful loans.

The bank, which given a waiver by the central banks of Bahrain and Kuwait on provisions for 1986, said it set aside 29.2 million dinars (\$77 million) against loans for 1987.

This was more than nine times as much as in 1986 when the bank declared zero profit for a second year running and used its full 3.2 million dinars (\$8.5 million) in operating profits to build provisions against lending.

A brief statement of preliminary results said the increase in provisions was "to strengthen the bank's financial position and build a solid base for the future."

The bank, owned by institutional and private shareholders in Bahrain and Kuwait, said operating profit rose by 81 per cent in

1987 to 5.8 million dinars (\$15.4 million).

It was hard hit in the early 1980s when collateral on loans, in the form of stock and property, declined sharply in value. In contrast to some offshore banks which lent heavily to Latin America, much of the bank's exposure is in the Gulf region.

BBK's 1986 accounts were qualified by auditors Ernst and Whinney, which said there was a shortfall in loan provisions at the Kuwait branch when measured against the Central Bank of Kuwait's requirements.

Kuwait's central bank, with the agreement of the Bahrain Monetary Agency, guaranteed the shortfall which was to be met out of earnings in future years.

Banking sources said the waiver had been extended since there was still a shortfall. BBK will omit its dividend for a third year running and does not intend to take any capital measures, they said.

BBK's statement said: "The board of directors reiterated its confidence in the bank which continues to enjoy considerable capital resources and solid support from its shareholders and the governments of the states of Bahrain and Kuwait."

The bank has launched a major reorganisation and, under new General Manager Murad Al Murad drafted from Saudi-based National Commercial Bank, has moved into new headquarters in central Manama.

Bankers estimate it holds about a quarter of the deposits in Bahrain's banking system. Its main rival, National Bank of Bahrain, held 1987 net profit unchanged at 4.4 million dinars (\$11.7 million).

Rabat reasserts demand to join EC

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) and Morocco clinched key fishing and aid agreements Thursday but Rabat said it was still looking for a response to its application to join the Community.

"You know Morocco has made an official request to join the Community and we're waiting for a gesture one way or another from that Community," Mohammed Seghat, secretary of state for relations with the EC, told a news conference.

"I hope now this temporary problem (of the accords) has been solved, that gesture will be made," he added.

EC officials welcomed the accords, which will give Morocco about \$735 million in aid over the next five years, as a sound base for future cooperation.

But the officials said nothing about the membership application. The Community has already said that the EC's founding treaty restricts membership to European states.

The new fishing agreement is

vital to the livelihoods of thousands of Spanish and Portuguese fishermen, excluded from their traditional fishing grounds off Morocco since bilateral pacts with Rabat expired at the end of last year.

The agreement, made necessary by Spain and Portugal's entry to the Community in 1986, opens fishing rights off Morocco to other member states as well.

EC Fisheries Commissioner Antonio Cardoso E. Cunha said Italy, France, West Germany and The Netherlands had all shown interest.

But the accord does not define the limits of Morocco's territorial waters, skirting the question of whether disputed seas off the Western Sahara belong to Rabat or not.

The Western Sahara is controlled by Morocco but claimed by Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas.

Cardoso said the Community was absolutely neutral in the affair.

Seghat said there was no ques-

tion of Morocco using the fishing accord as a means to win de facto recognition of its claim to the Western Sahara.

Under the agreement, valid for four years from March 1, the Community will pay Morocco 70 million European Currency Units (\$85 million) a year for fishing rights.

In addition, Rabat should receive around 20 million European Currency Units (\$24 million) in fees from boats fishing in its waters, Cardoso said.

The agreement gives all EC members the right to fish in Moroccan waters, among the world's richest in crustaceans, sardines and tuna.

But it also provides for reducing catches of species like squid, allying Moroccan fears of over-fishing.

Under a separate five-year financial agreement, the Community will give Morocco 324 million European Currency Units (\$395 million) in grants and loans — a 62 per cent increase on the terms of a previous accord.

U.S. to examine telecommunications trade

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said Thursday it would require reporting by U.S. and foreign companies to determine what share of the U.S. telecommunications market is controlled by foreign firms.

The FCC said American firms had complained that foreign governments were limiting access to their markets while the U.S. markets remained open to imports.

Only a few years ago the United States had a surplus in telecommunications trade, but in 1986 it ran a deficit of \$2 billion. Efforts are under way in Congress to adopt legislation to re-

duce the huge U.S. trade deficit. For the first time the FCC will require large U.S. telecommunications firms to report the equipment they purchase so the commission can determine how much is made abroad.

In addition, foreign-owned telephone firms offering telecommunications services in the United States must report the extent of their business and revenues.

Cable and Wireless of Britain and FCC Communications, which is partly owned by French interests, are among firms that will be affected by the requirement, FCC officials said.

The FCC also said it would study global arrangements on rates which it said kept prices for international telephone calls far above actual costs of providing the service.

Unlike the U.S. system, telephone service in most other countries is operated by the government or government-controlled entities and does not allow competition on prices and service.

The FCC said it needed the information to decide whether policies abroad that discriminated against U.S. firms should be taken into consideration in its decisions.

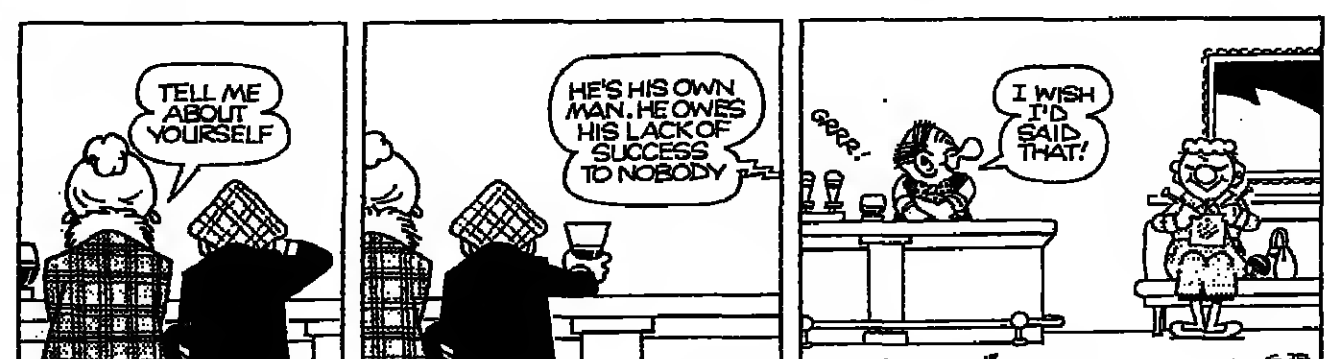
Peanuts



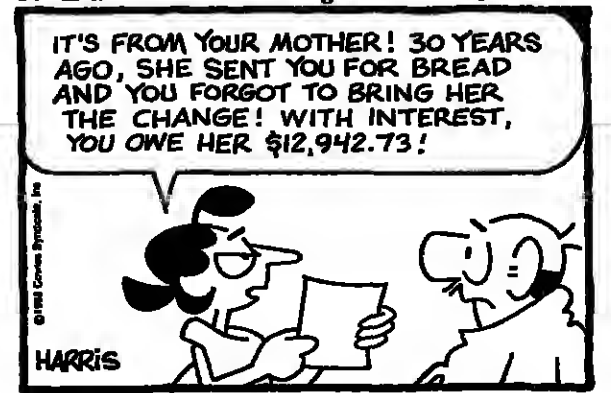
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

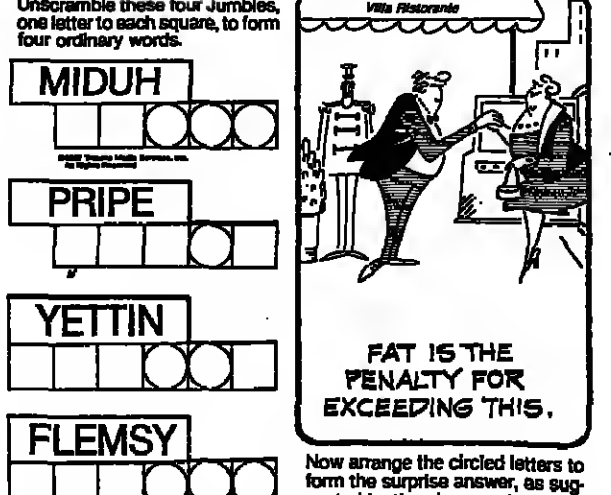


THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VIRUS FINAL HANSOM UNSAID

Answer: What the city required in order to clean up the aftermath of a big snowstorm — A "BLUR" FUND

Armenian demonstrations enter fifth day

Gorbachev appeals for calm in Yerevan

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev called Friday for calm in Armenia, local journalists said, after eight days of demonstrations by thousands demanding the redrawing of the republic's boundary with Azerbaijan.

In an address broadcast on Armenian radio and television, Gorbachev appealed for a "reasonable approach" to the issue, which he said would be resolved "in the spirit of old traditions and according to the principles of Leninist policy on nationalities."

Gorbachev's address highlighted the Soviet leadership's concern about the unrest in Armenia, which began more than a week ago in support of Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, demanding the rejoining of the territory with Armenia.

The local journalists, speaking by telephone from the Armenian capital Yerevan, confirmed that demonstrations were continuing in the city Friday.

Earlier a Moscow dissident said relatives in Yerevan had told him by telephone that tens of thousands were taking part in the protests.

A spokeswoman at the Baking-Rabochy daily in the Azerba-

jani capital, Baku, said Gorbachev's address had also been broadcast on radio and television in Azerbaijan.

'Extremist elements'

She said Gorbachev had blamed extremist elements for the troubles in Nagorno-Karabakh and spoke of the "historical unity between Armenia and Azerbaijan." The Soviet leader, she said, called for social order to be respected.

News from Nagorno-Karabakh was sparse as Soviet authorities imposed a virtual blackout. The region was joined to Azerbaijan in 1923, but the majority of its inhabitants are Armenians.

Staff at the Yerevan newspaper Kommunist said meetings were taking place in Yerevan to discuss the region.

They said the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh was returning to normal.

There have been no criminal actions there over the last two days, a spokesman said.

On Thursday, TASS news agency quoted the Soviet Deputy Public Prosecutor, Alexander Katusev, as denying rumours of violence, including one that 60 Armenians had been murdered in the regional capital, Stepanakert.

"In fact not a single person of Armenian nationality has been murdered," TASS quoted him as saying.

Gorbachev's 15-minute speech also was broadcast over loudspeakers at Yerevan Airport and elsewhere in the city, said Grigoryants, a Moscow resident who had served with the Soviet army in Afghanistan and was among the protesters were throwing away their medals and their Communist Party membership cards.

Moscow-based media, including the official TASS news agency, which are customarily quick to report Gorbachev's public remarks, carried no immediate mention of his appeal to Armenians.

Speech not combative

Although Grigoryants said the 56-year-old Soviet leader's speech was more conciliatory and soothing than "combative" remarks made Wednesday night in Yerevan by Dolgikh, he said it failed to sway the protesters.

"The numbers in the streets have grown to more than 1 million today," the AP quoted Gri-

goryants as saying. "Columns are marching along the major streets, and there is a sea of banners."

Another witness, Paruyr Ayrikyan, an Armenian activist, said some of the banners read "Karabakh is Armenia" and "Karabakh is a test of Perestroika," the Russian-language word for Gorbachev's drive for economic and social reconstruction.

Grigoryants said factories, scientific institutes and the Armenian Telegraph Agency had gone on strike in sympathy with the protest, and that Armenians who had served with the Soviet army in Afghanistan and were among the protesters were throwing away their medals and their Communist Party membership cards.

The protests in Yerevan, constitute a clear challenge to Gorbachev's campaign for greater democratisation and openness. The Soviet leader's personal appeal showed how seriously the Kremlin regards the situation.

Gorbachev, in a speech to the party Central Committee on Nov. 18, said relations among the more than 100 ethnic groups that live in the Soviet Union are the country's greatest problem.

But he has before intervened publicly in a dispute, even when rioting broke out on Dec. 17-18, 1986 in the Central Asian Repub-

lic of Kazakhstan in which three people were killed and 200 injured.

That unrest was sparked by the appointment of an ethnic Russian to replace a Kazakh as local party chief.

On Thursday, two witnesses claimed more than 1 million people had jammed downtown Yerevan to take part in the protests. Demonstrators asked workers to strike, and an Armenian telephone operator said Thursday night that public transport in Yerevan was shut down and many factories and businesses closed.

In Paris, French Armenians, quoting sources in the Soviet Union, said up to a million people massed in the Armenian capital Thursday to demand a redrawing of the republic's boundary with Azerbaijan.

A spokesman for an Armenian radio network in Paris said a protest organiser, reached by telephone in the capital Yerevan, reported that tens of thousands of people poured into the city from across the republic to join residents in a peaceful protest.

The demonstrators marched through the streets waving banners saying "a single nation, a single republic."

USSR withdraws nuclear missiles

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (Agencies) — Soviet troops have started home from East Germany and Czechoslovakia with the first nuclear missiles to be dismantled under the superpower treaty scrapping intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

The Soviet soldiers left two bases in East Germany and one garrison in Czechoslovakia Thursday after a ceremonial send-off given heavy play in the state-run media.

Both of Moscow's allies landed the pullout of some SS-12 missiles as evidence of the sincerity of the Kremlin.

Czechoslovak radio said the Soviets started work at 6 a.m. Thursday morning at the railway station at Hranice, a garrison town some 300 kilometres southeast of Prague.

Battling driving snow, they loaded 19 missile launchers on to trains before attending a ceremonial send-off at which the radio said they received decorations from the Czechoslovak Ministry of Defence.

The Soviet commander of the missile forces said the weapons would be taken to an unspecified "liquidation" site in the Soviet Union, but would not be destroyed until the U.S. Congress ratifies the December treaty to scrap intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

"If the agreement is not ratified, the responsible officials will decide about future steps," Lt. Col. Vyacheslav Granovsky told the state news agency CTK.

Snow-covered houses were decked with flags Thursday in the sleepy town of Bischofswerda, near Dresden, where foreign reporters watched crowds wave farewell at the railway station to a group of 69 soldiers and their charges — 27 missile launchers apparently complete with SS-12 shorter-range rockets.

East European officials say Moscow is withdrawing the 54 SS-12s at four East German bases and all 39 SS-12s from Hranice to encourage swift ratification of the

U.S.-Soviet treaty on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) signed last December.

All the SS-12s are expected to be removed by mid-March. They can reach 500 to 1,000 km.

"With this step we confirm how serious we are about the treaty," said Colonel Vladimir Yankovsky, commander of the Bischofswerda unit at a farewell ceremony. He added that a similar gesture was expected from the west.

But NATO diplomats said the Soviet move was aimed at scoring propaganda points and implied that a similar premature removal in the west was unlikely.

"The Soviets put these missiles there in the first place and if they wish to make some goodwill gesture by unilaterally removing them so much the better," said a spokesman of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

He said the situation in western Europe, where Washington has Pershing-2 and Cruise rockets based, was not comparable.

Moscow deployed the SS-12s and a further 53 SS-23s after Washington decided to station its missiles in Europe in what it called a countermeasure to other Soviet nuclear weapons.

East Germany — where 380,000 regular Soviet troops are based — and Czechoslovakia are Moscow's only European allies with nuclear missiles stationed on their territory.

One diplomat described the Soviet withdrawal as "a meaningless stunt," while others said the central question was whether the removed missiles would be destroyed. U.S. checks could only be made once the INF deal was ratified.

In Bischofswerda, Soviet officers said the trains with their tarpaulin-covered flat-bed trucks carrying launchers would head for Soviet destruction sites. The missiles would be kept there until treaty ratification.

Soldiers said they looked forward to returning to barracks in the Soviet Republic of Georgia.

'Crackdown against communism'—Botha

STANDERTON, South Africa (R) — South African President P.W. Botha has defended his government's crackdown on leftist political and labour organisations, saying he was trying to prevent the oppression of communist dictatorship.

"We say we are not prepared to sell out South Africa to Marxist revolution," Botha told a political rally on Thursday night in this small mining town, 150 km southeast of Johannesburg.

"You have to have law and order," he said. "Yesterday's steps were taken not to suppress freedom, but to prevent the oppression of communistic dictatorship."

Botha's speech came amid an avalanche of condemnation by local and foreign critics, including many western governments, of a harsh new set of emergency rules imposed by Pretoria on Wednesday which virtually outlawed 17 black anti-apartheid groups.

"They (the steps) were taken to protect and to help promote a system of privatisation and development," Botha told more than 1,000 supporters of the ruling National Party (NP).

He called for realism and idealism in solving South Africa's problems and pleaded with South Africa's dominant Afrikaners, "not to close your eyes with the blindness of hate."

Botha made his speech, regarded as conciliatory, on the eve of two by-elections here and in Schweizer-Reeneke, which NP officials acknowledge they could lose to the far-right Conservative Party.

U.S. Congressmen condemn In Washington, Democratic Congressional leaders on Thursday condemned the South African government's crackdown on black opposition groups and said they would work to impose new sanctions against the white-ruled nation.

"This repressive action is yet one more step towards absolute totalitarian government control over South Africa's non-white majority," Howard Wolpe, Chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee, told a news conference.

"The South African regime is bent on pushing the crisis it confronts into open-ended violence and bloodshed," the Michigan Democrat said.

The White-minority Pretoria government on Wednesday banned the activities of 17 organisations opposed to South Africa's apartheid system of institutionalised racial segregation, including the three-million-member United Democratic Front, the highest anti-apartheid coalition.

Obesity not linked to eating

NEW YORK (R) — Two new studies of obesity — one involving adults, the other infants — reinforce the theory that many people are fat because they don't burn energy as rapidly as other people, not because they eat more. The studies, reported in the Feb. 25 New England Journal of Medicine, say that energy expenditure seems to be the key influence on a person's long-term weight. Fat people expend less energy, so the calories they eat are more likely to be transformed into extra weight. For overweight babies, "our findings suggest that the most appropriate approach to preventing obesity in susceptible infants may be to increase their energy expenditure, rather than decrease (the amount of food they consume)," said Susan Roberts of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her colleagues, who tested infants of underweight and overweight mothers. She found that the infants who became obese had bodies that expended nearly 21 per cent less energy than other babies.

"In that project, led by Eric Ravussin, the investigators found that volunteers with a slower metabolism were four times more likely to gain 16 pounds over a four-year period."

Some W. German wives will give up husbands before girlfriends

HAMBURG (AP) — Given the choice, more than one out of every four West German women would ditch their husbands before giving up their best girlfriends, a magazine said Wednesday. A survey by the Journal for Women magazine also reported that 86.5 per cent of the women asked said they willingly accepted criticisms from their best girlfriends. According to the magazine, 26 per cent of the women surveyed said they would give up their husbands before their best female friends. But in the end the men won out, with 71 per cent of the women saying they would give up their best girlfriends to keep their husbands, while three per cent were undecided, the magazine said. The Hamburg-based magazine, which has a weekly circulation of about 500,000, did not say how many women took part in the survey.

Napoleon the rat meets his rodent Waterloo

NEWTON ABBOT, England (R) — Napoleon the Australian rat met his rodent Waterloo after British customs officers swooped on the home of his owner, a court heard on Wednesday. Napoleon became a fugitive from Britain's strict anti-rabies laws when Linda Squire smuggled him home to southwest England. Squire, 21, told the court she bought the black and white rat from a Perth pet shop during a tour of Australia. She hid him under her jumper for most of the 32-hour flight back to England. He escaped the searching eyes of inspectors at London's Gatwick airport but customs men arrested Squire at home two days later for illegally importing an animal. Napoleon was put down and his remains incinerated. "Rats are loving, intelligent and stay with you. They are interesting characters," Squire told reporters through tears after the court fined her a total of £450.

Van Gogh portrait to be auctioned

NEW YORK (R) — A powerful portrait of a young girl who sat for Vincent van Gogh a month before the artist committed suicide will be sold at auction at Christie's in New York March 11, the auction house said Thursday. Van Gogh's "Portrait of Adeline Ravoux" is expected to fetch more than \$15 million, which would be the fourth largest auction price ever for a work by the impressionist master. Christie's said in a statement. The oil-on-canvas painting depicts 13-year-old Adeline Ravoux, whose father was the innkeeper of the Cafe Ravoux in Auvers-sur-Oise where van Gogh spent the last two months of his life. He committed suicide there July 28, 1890. The three most expensive paintings ever auctioned are all by van Gogh. "Irises" was sold for \$53.9 million at Sotheby's in New York last November. "Sunflowers" brought \$39.9 million last March and "The Truittville Bridge" \$20.2 million last June in auctions at Christie's in London.

Roh okays amnesty

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Roh Tae-Woo approved a sweeping amnesty Friday for 1,731 political dissidents and labour activists, which the government said demonstrated his determination to build a democratic government.

Roh, who took office Thursday, approved the freeing from prison or restoration of civil rights to the dissidents after meeting with his cabinet.

The government said the measure was designed to build public trust.

"The government wants all the people to join in building democracy," said Information Minister Chung Han-Mo after announcing the measure.

The political and labour cases were included in an amnesty for 7,234 people, most of them convicted of criminal offenses.

It was not immediately clear how many of the dissidents were still in prison, but it appeared many had already been released in earlier amnesties. Those still in prison were to be freed Saturday.

But several imprisoned prominent dissident leaders, including Kim Kun-Tae and Chang Ki-Pyo, were not to be released because of their role in violent protests, according to Korean news reports.

Chung said the amnesty did not include dissidents who had committed serious crimes such as murder or arson as part of political protests. He hailed the measure as "courageous" and said it would boost democratic reconciliation.

Opposition groups contend about 1,500 people are being held for political offenses. The amnesty did not affect people still awaiting trial on political charges.

The measure restores the civil rights of many prominent dissidents.

Education minister takes over Panama president sacked

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma was sworn in as Panama's new Chief of State early Friday to replace President Eric Arturo Delvalle, removed from office after he ordered the country's military strongman to step down.

Legislative Assembly President Alberto Aleman Boyd administered the oath of office to 71-year-old Palma Solis at the Legislative Assembly shortly before 4 a.m. (0900 GMT).

Delvalle said he rejected his removal, which came after the military challenged his order dismissing Noriega and the man named as new chief of the defence forces refused to take the oath.

Noriega, who is under indictment in the United States as a suspected drug trafficker, is regarded as the real power behind the civilian government in Panama, headquarters for U.S. military operations in Latin America.

Opposition lawmakers did not attend the 10-minute emergency

legislative session during which Delvalle and Vice President Roderick Esquivel were removed from office. The actions were by unanimous vote of the 38 members of the 67-seat assembly in attendance.

The cabinet, which Delvalle said he fired Friday, then named Solis Palma Chief of State to complete Delvalle's term. Elections are scheduled for May 1989.

At his home, Delvalle said he fired all 12 cabinet members and called the resolution "something legally despicable that only fulfills a formality in the mind of those who want to grasp power at any cost."

"They will not receive acceptance from any country that takes pride in being democratic," Delvalle said.

In Washington, White House Spokesman Boh Hall said the White House would have no comment until morning. An official at the State Department also had no immediate comment.

The National Democratic Union, which backs the military,

holds 45 seats in the assembly. The rest are held by the Democratic Alliance of the opposition, none of whose members attended the session.

In its resolution, the assembly said Delvalle did not follow constitutional procedures and laws of the defence forces in removing Noriega.

In addition, it said, in announcing his decision, Delvalle mentioned the U.S. charges against Noriega, showing that "this conduct of the president occurs with the object of permitting the intervention of the government of the United States in the internal affairs of Panama."

It said Delvalle's action damaged national sovereignty and endangered the peace and security of the country, also violating the constitution.

It said Esquivel had abandoned his post Sept. 8, 1987, in violation of the constitution.

There was no immediate comment from Noriega, who has said he is innocent of all charges against him.

U.S. to support Afghan rebels until aid 'no longer needed'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government will send military aid to Afghan guerrillas "until that support is no longer needed" to gain the permanent withdrawal of Soviet troops, a senior official has told Congress.

"We will not abandon the Afghan resistance," said Robert Peck, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State.

Peck also welcomed a statement by resistance leaders in Kabul saying that they would agree to an interim government

consisting of some Afghans currently in Kabul, possibly non-communist members of the current government.

Peck denied charges by some resistance leaders that the United States is selling them out by agreeing to a deal that would cut off aid at the beginning of a Soviet withdrawal. The resistance leaders said that could possibly allow the Red Army or the Afghan leadership to slaughter the insurgents.

Peck told a House of Representatives panel that a proposed U.N. agreement ending the Afghan war contains provisions the administration of President Ronald Reagan understands would bar the Kremlin from arming its clients in Kabul or waging offensive operations

against the guerrillas.

Any continued military aid or offensive operations by the Soviets in Afghanistan would violate provisions of the U.N.-sponsored accord guaranteeing "non-interference and non-intervention," he said.

Soviet officials have said they expect U.S. aid to end 60 days after an agreement is signed, but have not said when they would stop aiding Kabul.

"It is a matter on which we are not completely satisfied, and we intend to pressure them," said Peck.

But he said the administration would oppose any Congressional resolution calling for the president to continue military aid to the guerrillas until the last Soviet soldier leaves.

Queen is Britain's richest but tycoons are catching up

By Donald Forbes
Reuter

LONDON — Newly-rich tycoons from industry, property and entertainment are elbowing most aristocratic old money aside in Britain's booming billionaire stakes.

Queen Elizabeth is comfortably ahead of the field as the holder of the country's biggest personal fortune but a survey says self-made entrepreneurs form the bulk of at least 20,000 millionaires in Britain.

Money magazine has discovered that only five members of the titled elite belong among the 20 richest Britons with wealth in excess of £250 million (\$440 million).

A survey in the March issue of Money named the 200 richest people in the country — seven of them billionaires — and put their collective worth at £26.5 billion (\$45 billion).

They ranged from the queen, who has estates, shareholdings, jewellery, race horses and paintings worth £3.34 billion (\$5.83 billion), to best-selling author Frederick Forsyth with £10 million (\$17.6 million), the minimum amount for inclusion.

Noting that millionaires tend to be a secretive lot, money conceded its list of people with at least £10 million was not exhaustive and said the jostle to join was growing. It estimated the number of Britons with fortunes in excess of the magic million mark at 20,000.

The queen's fortune compares with the £14 billion (\$24.6 billion) wealth of the sultan of Brunei, named as the world's richest man by Forbes magazine, and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia's £11 billion (\$19.4 billion).

The queen's heir, Prince Charles, is Britain's 14th richest man with £340 million (\$600

million). The figures prompted a sniffy response from the left-wing Daily Mirror which said: "The rich are getting richer in (Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher's Britain... but the poor are getting poorer... those on the poverty line have swollen from three million to nearly five million."

Number two on the money list was 92-year-old John Moores, founder of a football betting system and mail order business. He left school at the age of 14 and has amassed a fortune worth £1.7 billion pounds (\$3 billion).

Other billionaires were the Duke of Westminster (£1.4 billion) who owns the choicest parts of central London and self-made financier Sir Jimmy Goldsmith (£1 billion).

Pop world

A clutch of mere millionaire

entrants from the pop world included Beatle Paul McCartney (£79 million), singer Elton John (£42 million) and Rolling Stone Mick Jagger (£19 million).

Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose "Phantom of the Opera" is a current hit in London and New York, has £25 million.

"Dynasty" television opera star Joan Collins and her novelist sister Jackie were among the 12 women in the top 200 with joint wealth of £93 million ahead of James Bond actor Sean Connery £11 million and Michael Caine £17 million.

The youngest of the group is 31-year-old Sophie Mirman who has made £30 million out of a national chain of shops which sell socks.

Money said her bank balance would have looked even better but for the October stock mar-

ket crash which wiped £19 million off the value of her holdings. A number of other listed business fortunes suffered similarly.

The five per cent of entrants who came from abroad included Arundhati Patel, a 39-year-old Asian who arrived almost penniless from Uganda and built up a shopping chain worth £50 million.

Money said: "Part of the fascination of compiling this list was digging up the unexpected names and the people behind business success stories where the end-product might be widely renowned but the name means nothing."

Its example was Ron Hickman who invented the Black and Decker "Workmate" kit beloved of do-it-yourself enthusiasts. Money estimated that Hickman's idea has put 30 million in his bank account.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

A CASE OF TRICK REDUCTION

Both vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH

7

62

AKQ973

AAS3

WEST

43

AKQJ84

95

104

K102

WEST

AKQJ109

1073

5

Q94

The bidding:

North East South West

1 Pass 1 2H

3 Pass 4 4 Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Ladies and Gentlemen of the

Jury:

"My client is the victim of vindictive prosecution. In a rubber game a few weeks ago, he sat South and reached four spades on the auction shown. So far, no one has suggested he should have bid anything else, especially since he had 150 honors to mitigate any loss he might have suffered."

"As far as the play is concerned, my client had no control over the proceedings. The defenders started with three rounds of hearts. Declar-

er ruffed the third round in dummy. Unfortunately, East overruffed and found the good shift to a club. Declarer correctly inserted the queen, but West produced the king, thereby forcing the ace from the table.

"With no other side-suit entry to the diamonds and no quick entry to his hand to draw trumps, declarer tried to take his three diamond tricks so he could discard his losing clubs. Unfortunately West ruffed the third round to defeat the contract one trick. For the prosecutor to suggest there was anything criminal in the play of the hand is willful."

"I would hate to find that the jury has been misled by the defending attorney's eloquent support of his client's play of the hand. I would suggest that South was guilty of criminal negligence in the extreme. He executed a compression play by reducing his 10 tricks to nine."

"When dummy appeared, declarer could see six spade tricks, three diamonds and the ace of clubs all he needed. He could have made the contract by simply refusing to ruff the third heart to dummy. If the opponents own shift to clubs, declarer simply wins the ace and crosses to his hand with a trump to draw all the trumps. His 10 tricks will then remain intact!"